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Robin Williams' daughter driven off social media

Online abuse follows actor's death PAGE 14

2004 Olympics still weighing on Greece

Nation saddled with pricey, decrepit venues PAGE 11

TOSSED SALADS AND SCRAMBLED ...

BRAINS? KELSEY GRAMMER ON HIS ROLE IN THE EXPENDABLES, PUNCHING PEOPLE, AND HOW HE'S 'A LOT TOUGHER THAN PEOPLE THINK' PAGE 24

Shoot-'em-up game stays put: Creator

Response. Main Street Massacre, which lets online users slaughter SkyTrain passengers and employees, has drawn transit police scrutiny

A screengrab from the online video game Main Street Massacre. METRO

A Vancouver man says he has no intention of taking down a gory online video game he claims to have created that depicts a transit passenger going on a violent killing rampage at the Main Street SkyTrain station.

The man, who goes by the name Alexi Wildman, said he created Main Street Massacre as an honest but metaphorical reflection of how many transit users feel about two recent SkyTrain shutdowns during the rush-hour commute.

Wildman said he was among the thousands of passengers affected by the system-wide failure and he felt compelled to create the browser-based game.

"After a really long crappy day at work, too … just like the character in the game," Wildman told Metro in an email interview. "Clearly it hit a nerve."

On Wednesday, TransLink asked media to refrain from linking to the video game, which "appears to advocate violent behaviour against SkyTrain employees and passengers."

"Playing clips from the video over and over again, and informing the public of where they can view the video, is irresponsible and does not serve the public interest," TransLink CEO Ian Jarvis said in a statement.

The game starts with a video depicting a character named Mack, a construction worker who becomes increasingly agitated during a torturously slow SkyTrain ride. After 20 minutes of delays in a crowded train, Mack snaps and pulls out a gun.

Players can then control Mack as he navigates a SkyTrain platform and guns down other riders and transit employees.

Transit police said they are in the process of reviewing the video game to determine if any "police-related issues come to light."

Although he wasn't aware that transit police were concerned about the game, Wildman said he disagreed that it advocates violent behaviour.

"It's cartoon violence," he said. "I certainly wouldn't do anything like this in real life … but that's why we have movies, video games and imagination."

Wildman, who said he is currently working temporarily as a construction worker, added Main Street Massacre won't be his last video game. Living in an RV in an industrial part of town, Wildman said he is working on getting his video game business off the ground.

Although the game wasn't working Wednesday, as the website was hammered with traffic, Wildman said he was working with his hosting provider to come up with a solution.

"I have no intention of taking it down," he said.

THANDI FLETCHER/METRO

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Burnaby

Cops seek suspect after woman stabbed with needle

Burnaby RCMP are asking for the public's help in tracking down a suspect after a woman was stabbed with a needle during an unprovoked attack last week.

Mounties say the victim was walking eastbound on Kingsway at the intersection of McKay Avenue, near Metrotown mall, on Aug. 8 when a man walked up to her and jabbed a needle in her leg.

The woman reported the incident at a community police station, was treated in hospital and was released shortly after.

The incident shocked police.

"While the nature of this incident is a significant concern for police, it is also highly unusual. As of today, we've had no other reported incidents," said Insp. Bob Page in a statement released Wednesday.

"The suspect's description stands out and we remain hopeful that someone will identify him."

The man is described as a dark-skinned male, 35 years old, standing five-foot-seven with short hair dyed blond.

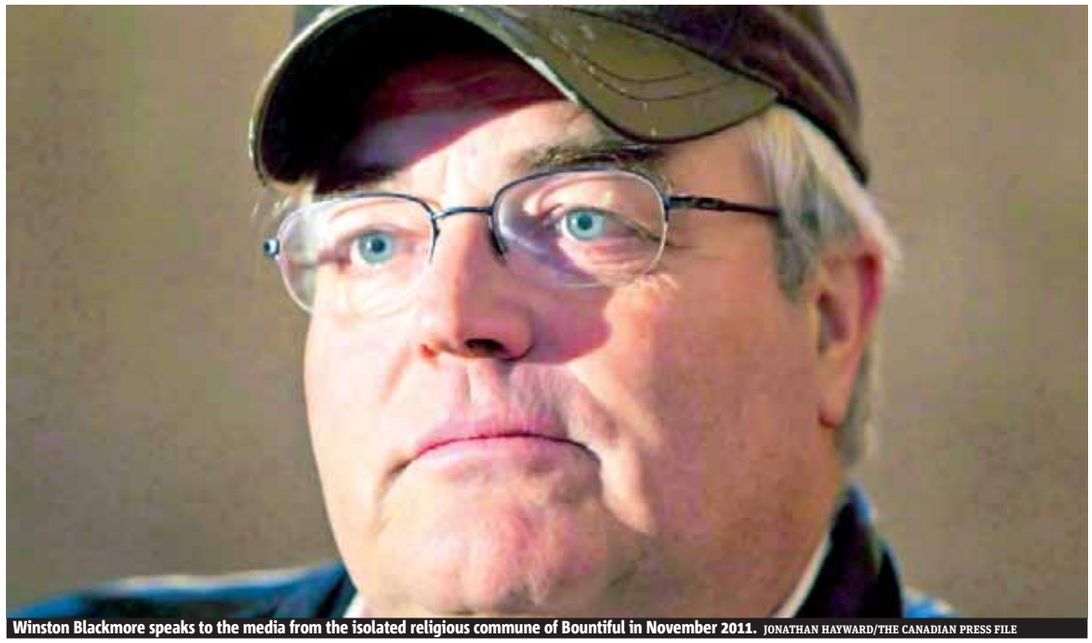
He was seen wearing a light blue tank top and dark jeans and was carrying three shopping bags.

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

Correction

CDI College misidentified

A story in Tuesday's Metro incorrectly identified CDI College. Metro apologizes for the error.



Winston Blackmore speaks to the media from the isolated religious commune of Bountiful in November 2011. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Special prosecutor gives OK to Bountiful charges

Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. RCMP have been investigating the community for past two decades

MATT KIELTYKA
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Polygamy charges against two men have been approved by a special prosecutor in the long-running investigation into the community of Bountiful, B.C.

Independent Special Prosecutor Peter Wilson announced Wednesday that sect leaders Winston Kaye Blackmore and James Mario Oler each face charges of polygamy, and that Oler also faces a charge for the alleged unlawful removal of a child from Canada.

In addition, two more people — Brandon James Blackmore and Emily Ruth Crossfield — each face a charge for the alleged unlawful removal of a child from Canada.

The charges were sworn Wednesday morning in British Columbia Provincial Court in Cranbrook.

Wilson, a Vancouver lawyer, was appointed as Special Prosecutor on Jan. 17, 2012, to review police reports and materials assembled by the Criminal Justice Branch and make a charging decision.

The RCMP has been investigating the polygamist community, near Creston, B.C., over the past two decades.

Blackmore is considered the leader of the community of 1,000 people, who are members of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, which also has communities in Arizona, Texas and Utah.

Blackmore and Oler were first arrested on polygamy charges in 2009, the first time Canada's polygamy laws have been enforced.

At the time, then-Attorney General Wally Oppal said, "I think this situation is intolerable. I don't think right-thinking Canadians want this situation to exist."

After their arrests, the B.C. Supreme Court initiated a Reference to determine whether section 293 of the Criminal Code (the polygamy provision) was consistent with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

The court upheld section 293 as constitutional Nov. 23, 2011, which led to Wilson's appointment as Special Prosecutor.

The Criminal Justice Branch said the charges approved by Wilson are similar to the ones they were originally charged with in 2009.

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Chester, a rare false killer whale calf rescued from a Tofino beach, is making strides at the Vancouver Aquarium's Marine Mammal Rescue Centre. CONTRIBUTED

Cetacean program made calf rescue possible: Head vet

Vancouver Aquarium. Rare false killer whale doing well after being rescued in July

THANDI FLETCHER
thandi.fletcher@metronews.ca

As staff continue to work around the clock nursing a rare false killer whale back to health, the Vancouver Aquarium's head veterinarian says efforts to save the marine mammal couldn't have been possible without the aquarium's captive cetacean program.

"People just aren't aware of what it takes to be an expert in these animals," Dr. Martin Haulena told Metro. "It takes a lot."

His comments come after a recent Vancouver park board decision to ban the breeding of captive whales and dolphins at the aquarium unless they are in danger of extinction — a move Haulena called "incredibly short-sighted."

"You can't be an expert in what you don't do," he said. "If we lose animals at the aquarium … if we lose that infrastructure, if we lose the ability to create more experts, that's going to affect things."

Although Haulena is concerned about the park board decision's impact on the future of the aquarium, he said he is happy to see how well the false killer whale is doing after being rescued July 10 from Chesterman Beach in Tofino, B.C.

Staff at the Marine Mammal Rescue Centre named the whale calf Chester after the beach where he was found stranded, Haulena said.

"Certainly he's got a long way to go," the veterinarian said. "But it's amazing that he is doing as well as he can and I couldn't be happier."

Chester is starting to gain weight and is swimming on his own. An especially positive sign for Chester's improving health, Haulena explained, is that the whale is starting to show off his playful side.

"He's soliciting belly rubs, which is really funny," he said. "He'll swim right towards you if you're in the water and then just flip right over."

The next step for Chester will be a move to a bigger pool at the rescue centre, as well as the addition of more solid fish to his diet.

As Chester was rescued at such a young age and hasn't had a chance to learn hunting, foraging, and predation skills, Haulena said the whale will likely never be released into the wild.

But his rescue wouldn't have been possible in the first place, he said, if it wasn't for the aquarium's long history of caring for cetaceans.

"There's no way we could have ever begun to think about undertaking a task like this if it wasn't for the aquarium and its involvement with cetaceans for decades," he said.

UBC works to improve safety on campus as fall term begins

$1 million investment. University sought ideas following a series of sexual assaults in 2013

EMILY JACKSON
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Students can expect a safer environment when they head back to the University of British Columbia this fall, after the university invested $1 million following a series of sexual assaults last year.

The university put the money toward more open, better-lit walking paths, added to the Alma Mater Society's Safewalk program, increased coverage of campus security bike patrols and developed new communication features on the UBC smartphone app, it announced Wednesday.

The changes are based on recommendations by a working group established after six women were attacked between April and October 2013. The man suspected to be responsible has not been caught.

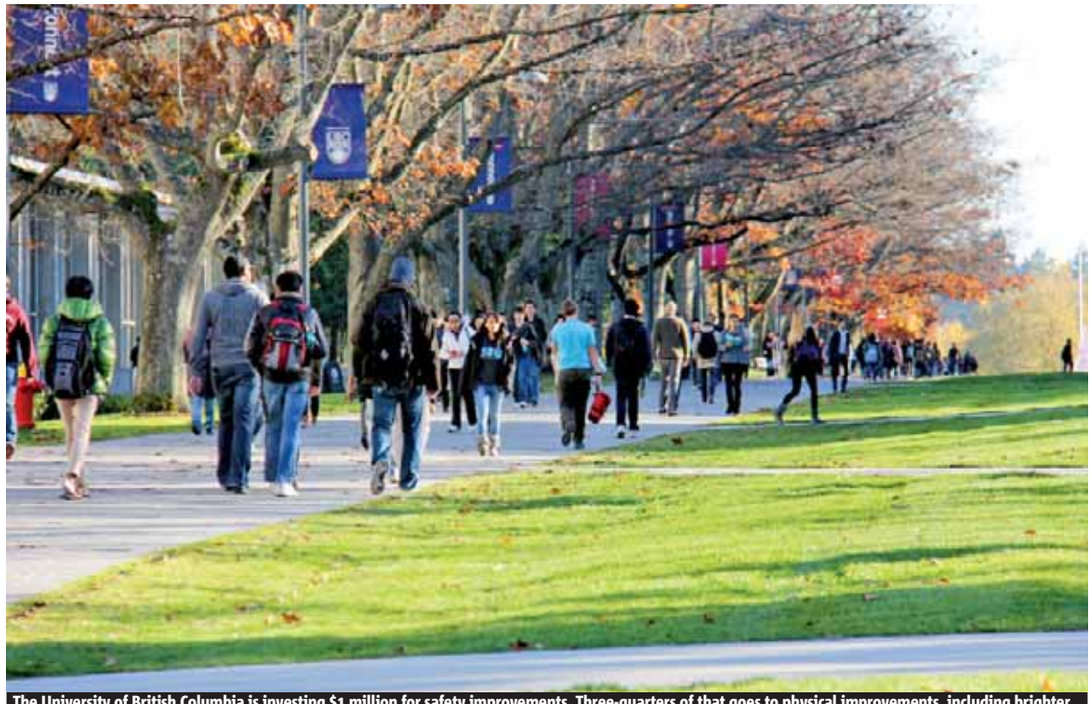
Three quarters of the cash is going to physical improvements, including brighter light bulbs, and the remainder to education programs, exploring the use of CCTV and communication tools such as the app.

In the long term, the university plans to focus on education and community-building, according to a statement from UBC President Arvind Gupta.

"UBC's Vancouver campus has been and continues to be a very safe place to live, work and study, and we are committed to tangible, practical safety improvements," university officials said in a statement. "We also agree with safety experts that ultimately the best crime prevention is a caring, connected and respectful community."

The string of sexual assaults wasn't the only news that rocked the UBC community last fall. A video of rape chants during frosh week made headlines across the country, forcing the university to create a task force and invest in sexual-abuse counselling.

The University RCMP detachment supports the steps fully, spokesman Sgt. Drew Grainger said Wednesday.



The University of British Columbia is investing $1 million for safety improvements. Three-quarters of that goes to physical improvements, including brighter light bulbs, the remainder to education programs, exploring the use of CCTV and communication tools such as the UBC smartphone app. NICK WELLS/FOR METRO

Teacher loses certification for covertly filming girls

A Lower Mainland teacher had his certification permanently revoked for secretly taking cellphone videos of girls and women at his school.

John Charles MacKinnon was a learning support and special-education teacher in the Maple-Pitt Meadows district when he began covertly filming women in December 2011, according to a consent resolution agreement by the B.C. Commissioner for Teacher Regulation.

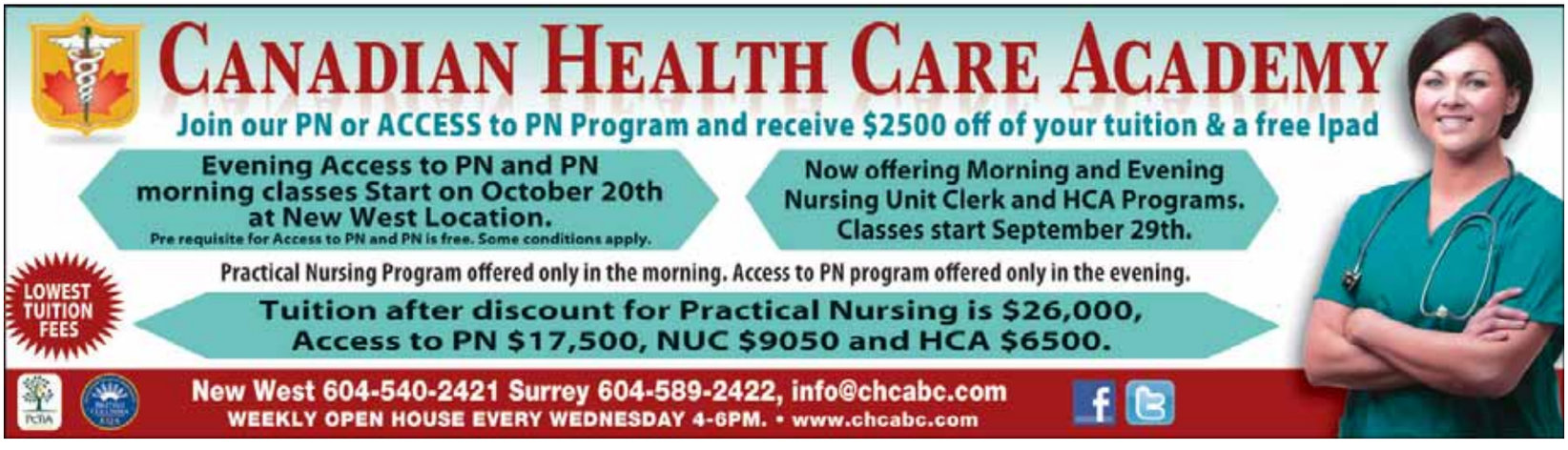
MacKinnon was arrested in June 2012 for filming the behinds and up the skirts of unsuspecting targets, including a 12-year-old girl, at a Walmart in Langley, according to the agreed statement of facts.

MacKinnon told RCMP he did not target children or take videos at his place of work, but officers found five videos on his phone recorded at the school. Two were of a female teacher, one of an unidentified woman and two of the crotch area of a 10-year-old girl.

The district suspended MacKinnon the next day with pay. He was charged in September 2012 with secretly observing or recording for a sexual purpose and suspended without pay in January 2013.

In July 2013, MacKinnon pleaded guilty to the criminal charge. He was given an 18-month conditional discharge in January 2014.

MacKinnon's certification to teach was cancelled in July 2014. In the agreement, he promised not to apply for a new certification, an independent school teaching certificate or a letter of permission at any time in the future. EMILY JACKSON/METRO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Fake bids see auction price soar, then tumble

Disappointment. Ex-Apple employee Sam Sung was hoping to raise big bucks for kids' charity by selling old work gear

A B.C. children's charity is disappointed after the majority of eBay bids for the last business card belonging to former Apple Store employee Sam Sung turned out to be fake.

On Tuesday, Sung and eBay decided to the remove the majority of bids for the framed and autographed presentation of his last Apple business card, T-shirt and lanyard that he was auctioning off for the B.C. and Yukon chapters of the Children's Wish Foundation.

The bidding had previously reached a shocking $87,678.64. On Wednesday morning, the highest bid sat at $2,149.61.

Jennifer Petersen, director of the charity's B.C. and Yukon chapters, said she was disheartened to see the drop in bids, which could have gone to grant wishes to eight children suffering from life-threatening illnesses.

"We were cautiously optimistic earlier this week, but as suspected it seems that the current bidders may not be serious bidders," Petersen said in a statement.

Sung, a former Apple specialist who had previously worked at the Vancouver Pacific Centre store location, rose to Internet fame in 2012 when a photo of his business card, bearing his coincidental name, went viral online at a time when Apple and rival tech giant Samsung were engaged in a bitter patent war.

Sung decided to auction off his last business card when it fell out of a book recently.

While she is hopeful there are still serious bidders taking part in the auction, Petersen said the charity is grateful for whatever the outcome may be.

"I know Sam is feeling disappointed, but we are very proud to be his charity of choice," she said.

The auction closes at 10 p.m. on Friday.

THANDI FLETCHER/METRO

Former Apple store employee Sam Sung is auctioning off his business card, T-shirt and name tag for charity. CONTRIBUTED

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Notice. First Nation plans to evict company behind mine tailings pond breach

A British Columbia First Nation plans to issue an eviction notice to Imperial Metals Corp. — the company behind a massive tailings pond breach at a gold and copper mine last week — over a separate project in the band's territory.

The declaration from the Neskonlith Indian Band is the latest sign that last week's tailings spill at the Mount Polley Mine in central B.C. could ripple across the company's other projects and possibly the province's entire mining industry.

The Neskonlith band said the notice, which its chief planned to hand-deliver to Imperial Metals in Vancouver on Thursday, orders the company to stay away from the site of its proposed Ruddock Creek zinc and lead mine, which is located about 150 kilometres northeast of Kamloops.

The mine, which is still in the development phase and has yet to go through the environmental assessment process, would be located near the headwaters of the Adams River, home of an important sockeye salmon run. The Neskonlith band opposed the mine long before the Mount Polley tailings spill.

"We do not want the mine developing or operating in that sacred headwaters," Neskonlith Chief Judy Wilson said in an interview Wednesday.

She said the Mount Polley spill shows the company cannot be trusted to build and operate a mine while also protecting the surrounding environment. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"Our elders have stated very clearly that they do not want anything poisoning our water or our salmon."

Neskonlith Chief Judy Wilson

Ruling

Cop used too much force during traffic stop: Watchdog

An adjudicator with B.C.'s Police Complaint Commission says a Vancouver police officer used excessive and unnecessary force when he punched a driver three times during a traffic stop in June 2012.

Adjudicator Alan Filmer says while there were reasonable grounds to make a traffic stop and arrest and search James Feng, there was no need for Const. John Gibbons to beat Feng because he could have spoken with the driver first, or taken the vehicle out of gear to stop him from fleeing. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Weather

Crews hope rain alleviates wildfires

Rain and cooler weather can't come soon enough for beleaguered crews battling wildfires around British Columbia.

An evacuation alert was issued late Tuesday by the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako as the uncontained China Nose fire flared, 15 kilometres south of Houston in northwestern B.C. The China Nose fire is among several that broke out Monday.

Crews hope days of rain expected for the Cariboo, Okanagan and south coast will ease parched conditions there, though lightning is also linked to that system. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Hold off on holding salt, study suggests

Health. New research questions the need to reduce sodium intake, although scientist says 'most people should stay where they are' and not eat more salt

A large international study challenges the advice for most people to cut back on salt. Unless they have high blood pressure, the amount most folks consume is OK for heart health, and too little may be as bad as too much, the study suggests. CLIFF OWEN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

A large international study questions the conventional wisdom that most people should cut back on salt, suggesting that the amount most folks consume is OK for heart health — and too little may be as bad as too much. The findings came under immediate attack by other scientists.

Limiting salt is still important for people with high blood pressure — and in fact, a second study estimates that too much sodium contributes to up to 1.65 million deaths each year.

The studies both have strengths and weaknesses, and come as the U.S. government is preparing to nudge industry to trim sodium in processed and restaurant foods.

The first study's leader, Dr. Salim Yusuf of McMaster University's Population Health Research Institute in Hamilton, urged keeping an open mind.

"There are those who have made a career out of promoting extreme sodium reduction that will attack us," he said. It's better to focus on healthy lifestyles and overall diets instead of a single element, "and that is something everyone can rally around."

No one should view this as permission to eat more salt, he said, adding that "most people should stay where they are."

The study was sponsored by the McMaster institute, non-profit and government groups and industry, but funders had no role in running it. The countries included Canada but not the United States; China accounted for 42 per cent of participants. About 40 per cent had high blood pressure.

Sodium levels were estimated from a single urine test instead of the preferred method of over 24 hours at multiple times, which Yusuf said was impractical in such a big group.

That drew criticism from a host of scientists.

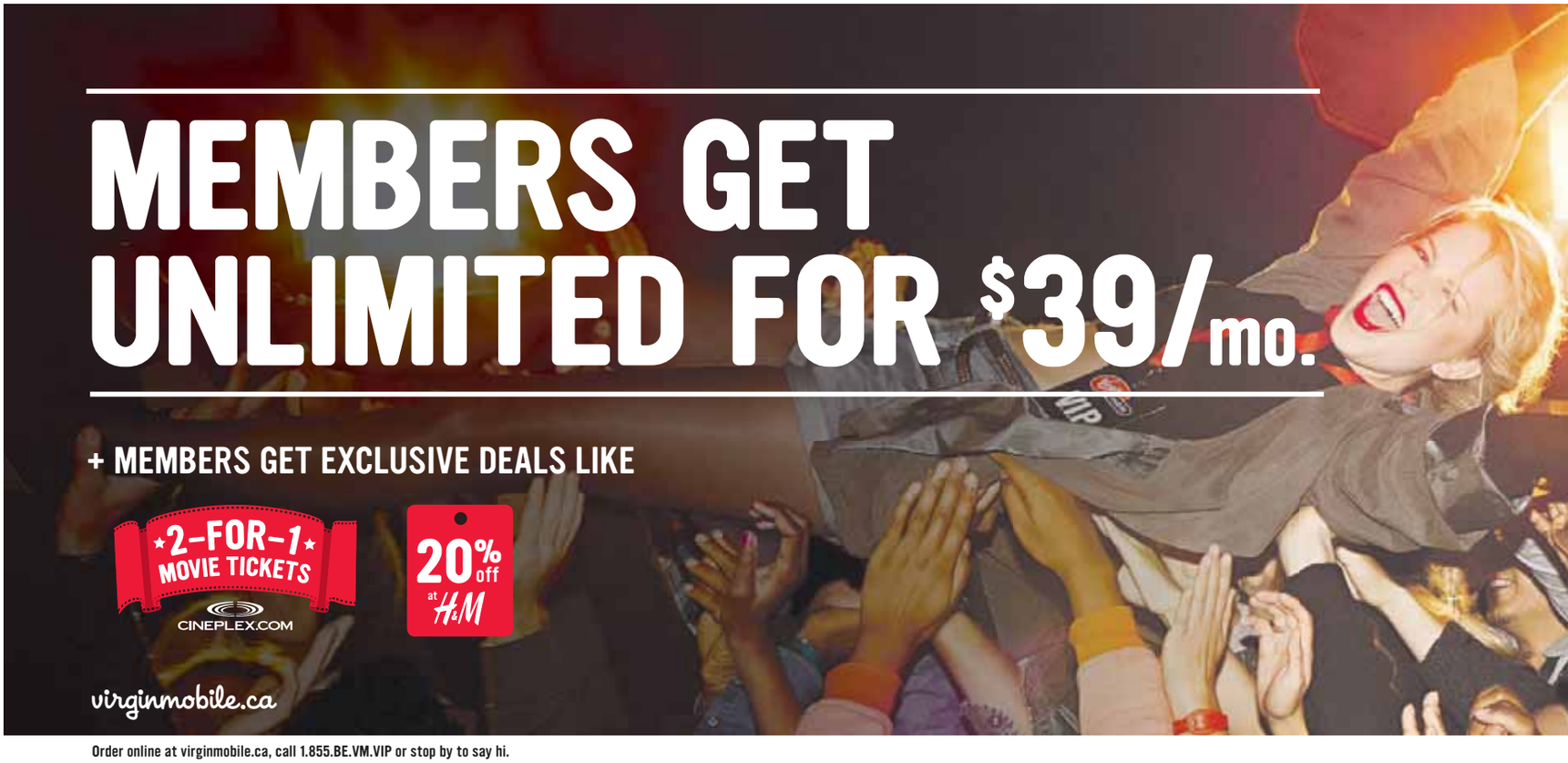
"This is a fundamental flaw" that undermines confidence in the results, said Dr. Elliott Antman, president of the Heart Association.

Dr. Robert Eckel, a University of Colorado cardiologist and a former Heart Association president, said the single measure is a big limitation, but that researchers "did the best they could" in such a large study and that the findings still have some merit.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Researchers found:

- Sodium levels generally correlate with the risk of high blood pressure. But this link is strongest when sodium intake is high and wasn't seen at all when consumption is low.
- A different nutrient — potassium — seems to lower blood pressure and heart risks, and offsets sodium's effect.
- People who consume 3 to 6 grams of sodium a day had the lowest risk of heart problems or death from any cause during the nearly four-year study.



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Man stabbed in the heart for accidental shoulder bump

Toronto. One man charged with attempted murder as Toronto police search for second man; victim listed critical but stable

A 33-year-old man was stabbed in the heart and remains in critical condition after he accidentally bumped shoulders with another pedestrian while walking and texting in downtown Toronto, police said Wednesday.

The man was walking while sending a message on his phone just after midnight.

He bumped the passerby, who took the contact as a "perceived slight" and allegedly attacked him, police said.

Const. David Hopkinson said the texting man's attempt at self-defence only further offended the two suspects, causing one of them to stab him in the heart.

The victim was rushed to hospital, where he was last reported in critical but stable condition.

Hopkinson said the incident near Yonge-Dundas Square seems "totally unique or random."

"It seems like it makes no sense."

A man was arrested shortly after, while another is sought by police.

Mohamed Ali, 27, is charged with attempted murder and aggravated assault.

Police describe the second suspect as white, five-foot-eight with short dark hair, and a chin-strap beard.

Officers say he was wearing a black and white sweater and may be familiar to those in the Yonge-Dundas area.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"It seems like it makes no sense."

Const. David Hopkinson,
who said the incident seems "totally unique or random."

Oath to the Queen upheld by Ontario Court of Appeal

Jamaican citizen Simone Topey, left, is seen outside the Ontario Court of Appeal with her lawyer Selwyn Pieters in Toronto on April 8. Citing the "symbolic" nature of the citizenship oath, Ontario's top court has dismissed a constitutional challenge by three permanent residents who claim swearing allegiance to the Queen is discriminatory and unjust. Topey was one of three who argued that the provision in the Citizenship Act that requires would-be citizens to swear to be "faithful and bear true allegiance to Queen Elizabeth the Second, Queen of Canada, her heirs and successors," violates the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. COLIN PERKEL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Klaus Nielsen

Researcher pleads guilty in bacteria-smuggling case

The puzzling case of the renowned Canadian infectious disease expert who tried to smuggle dangerous bacteria to China neared its end Wednesday as the disgraced scientist pleaded guilty to 11 charges.

Klaus Nielsen, 68, a one-time lead researcher at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, remains free on bail until his sentencing.

A statement of facts agreed to by Nielsen's lawyers and the Crown provided details of Nielsen's attempt to take vials of Brucella bacteria to China in his luggage two years ago.

But it still left one question largely unanswered: Why did Nielsen put his 32-year career and reputation as a scientist on the line?

There is no evidence that Nielsen profited from starting up a company to make and sell test kits for brucellosis, an infectious disease caused by Brucella.

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Crumbling venues, billions over budget define Athens '04's legacy

Greece. Ten years on, the glamour of the 2004 Olympic Games has worn away, leaving only a country in recovery

In an obscure corner of a park sits a forlorn reminder that, 10 years ago, Athens hosted the 2004 Summer Olympics. The crumbling miniature theatre is inscribed with the words "glory, wealth, wisdom, victory, triumph, hero, labour" — and is where Olympic officials planted an olive sapling bearing their names for posterity.

Once a symbol of pomp, the marble theatre is now an emblem of waste in a venture that left a mixed legacy: a brand-new subway, airport and other vital infrastructure that significantly improved everyday life in a city of four million, set against scores of decrepit sports venues built in a mad rush to meet deadlines — with little thought for post-Olympic use.

As Greece groans under a cruel economic depression, questions linger about whether the Athens Games were too ambitious an undertaking for a weak economy. While economists agree it would be unfair to blame the meltdown on the 17-day Games, the post-Olympic era is seen as a decade of lost opportunities.

"We didn't take advantage of this dynamic that we got in 2004," said former Olympic weightlifting champion Pyrros Dimas, now a Socialist member of Parliament. "We simply made the biggest mistake in our history: We switched off, locked up the stadiums, let them fall to pieces, and everything finished there."

Many projects cost millions more than first thought, resulting in a debt of 8.5 million euros. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tourists visit Panathenaic stadium in Athens earlier this week. PETROS GIANNAKOURIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUGMENTED REALITY

→ There are a number of athletic venues that have not aged well. For more photos of crumbling Olympic venues, scan this photo with your Metro News App.

metro AR → See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Athens 2004

- The country has pegged the cost of the games at 8.5 billion euros.
- Greece went well over budget, spending 13 to 14 million euros on most projects.

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Domestic violence

Lax penalty appalls Maine governor

Maine Gov. Paul LePage has told the NFL's commissioner that he is appalled by the slap on the wrist given to Ray Rice, who allegedly struck his then-fiancée. Rice was punished with a two-game suspension for a domestic violence arrest.

Lepage said that simply suspending players for domestic violence can send a message that such behaviour is acceptable.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mont Blanc

Six found dead on French mountain

Six French climbers died in a fall on France's Mont Blanc, officials said Wednesday.

Jean-Baptiste Estachy, head of the Mont Blanc rescue squad, said five bodies were found Wednesday and the body of the sixth victim was later pulled out from the bottom of a crevasse.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Eleven injured after train struck by landslide in Swiss Alpine valley

Three cars derailed. Among the injured are eight Swiss nationals, two Japanese citizens and one Australian

A derailed passenger train is pictured near Tiefencastel, Switzerland, on Wednesday. ARNO BALZARINI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Three train cars derailed and 11 people were injured Wednesday after a landslide hit a mountain train in the Swiss Alps, police said. One carriage slid down a steep slope, saved from a ravine only by large trees.

The accident occurred in a deep wooded valley between Tiefencastel and Solis, southeast of Zurich in the canton of Graubuenden. Police said about 140 people were on board at the time of the accident, which occurred around lunchtime. The landslide followed heavy rains over the last day.

Five people were seriously injured and another six sustained slight injuries, Graubuenden police spokeswoman Anita Senti said. They included eight Swiss, two Japanese citizens and one Australian, police said.

The train had set off from the ski resort of St. Moritz heading north toward Chur, Graubuenden's administrative capital.

Police initially said the train ran into a landslide on the track, but later revised their comments to say a landslide hit the train as it travelled between two tunnels along the side of a valley. One train car slid about 10 metres down the slope before being stopped by the trees.

Air rescue helicopters helped with the recovery effort since the crash site was not near a road. By mid-afternoon, everyone had been evacuated, with uninjured passengers taken to Tiefencastel and put on buses.

The train is operated by Rhaetische Bahn, which runs narrow-gauge routes in Switzerland's mountainous southeastern corner that are popular with tourists. The line is expected to remain closed for two days.

Switzerland's rail system is considered among the safest and most efficient in the world, despite the country's challenging terrain.

Accidents are rare, although in 2010 the popular Glacier Express tourist train derailed in the Alps in southern Switzerland, killing one person and injuring 42 others.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Questions still linger about use of untested Ebola drugs on patients

Doctors treating a leading Sierra Leone physician who became sick with Ebola considered giving him an experimental drug but feared it could trigger a dangerous immune response and did not administer it, Doctors Without Borders said Wednesday.

Ebola has killed more than 1,000 people and sickened nearly 2,000 in the current West African outbreak.

At the time the experimental treatment was being considered for Dr. Sheik Humarr Khan, his immune system was starting to produce antibodies suggesting he might recover, Doctors Without Borders said in a statement.

In the end, the treating physicians decided against using the drug. Shortly after their decision, Khan's condition worsened, the statement said. He died a few days later.

The drug in question is believed to be ZMapp, an experimental drug that has already been given to three people.

Meanwhile, the debate over experimental treatments and vaccines continues. Canada has promised to donate 800 to 1,000 doses of its untested Ebola vaccine to the World Health Organization and questions are being asked about who will get it and how scientists will determine if it works.

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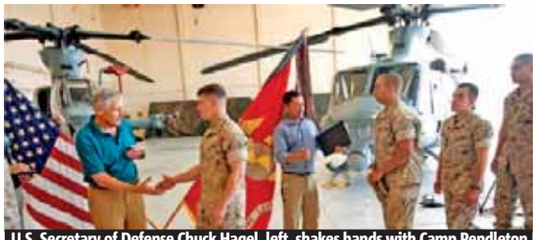
White House plans Iraq rescue operation



U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, left, shakes hands with Camp Pendleton marines, Tuesday. PAUL RODRIGUEZ/THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canada's role. U.S. seeking help from allies in protecting Yazidis, Iraqi Christians

The United States is planning an international effort to whisk displaced people to safety in Iraq, and it appears there may be a supporting role for Canada.

The U.S. says it's in discussions with several countries including Canada about helping Yazidis, Iraqi Christians, and other people who have become displaced by the advance of Islamist fighters.

At a White House briefing Wednesday, deputy national security adviser Ben Rhodes said the U.S. was taking up offers to help those who are under threat from the al-Qaida splinter group, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

"We have offers of support from a number of allies like France, Australia, Canada," Rhodes said.

"We'll be in discussions with them about what they can do both as it relates to helping the Yazidi population ... but also, more broadly, helping bring relief to the displaced persons in northern Iraq, which includes not just Yazidis but an enormous number of Iraqi Christians and others who have been driven from their homes by ISIL."

It's expected that most countries would play a humanitarian-assistance role while the U.S. weighs options for a military mission to help move tens of thousands of people away from the area.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Egypt. Ousted president Hosni Mubarak defends his years in power

In his first speech since being put on trial, Egypt's toppled president Hosni Mubarak denied Wednesday that he ordered the killing of protesters during the 2011 uprising that deposed him. Speaking from a gurney, the 86-year-old former leader sought to mend his image, clearly emboldened by the country's changed political landscape.

Speaking from inside a cage that holds defendants, Mubarak gave a 23-minute, uninterrupted address aired live on national television. It starkly contrasted the dozens of ongoing trials of ousted president Mohammed Morsi and his supporters, toppled in last year's military overthrow, who are crammed inside soundproof glass cages for their hearings.

"Hosni Mubarak who appears before you today would never order the killing of protesters or the shedding the blood of Egyptians," the former autocrat said, speaking in the third person in an impassioned, defiant statement.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Egyptian medics and army personnel escort former Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak, 86, from a helicopter ambulance after landing at the Maadi Military Hospital, following his retrial in Cairo, Wednesday.
AMR NABIL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vatican City

Pope asks UN to take action vs. Iraq persecution

The Vatican is increasingly indicating support for military action in Iraq to protect Christians and other religious minorities from persecution by the Islamic State. On Wednesday, the Vatican released a letter Pope Francis sent to the UN secretary general renewing his appeal to the international community to take action.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Raising fear

Poland, Latvia protest Russian politician's claims

Poland and Latvia have summoned the Russian ambassadors to protest threats by nationalist politician Vladimir Zhirinovsky, who last week said Poland and the Baltic states would be "wiped out" in the event of a war between Russia and the West. "The Baltic States and Poland are doomed.... Nothing will remain there," Zhirinovsky said.

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Robin Williams' daughter leaves social media, after online abuse

Steps away following dad's death. Accounts of both alleged bullies were suspended

Robin Williams' daughter has abandoned her online social media accounts in disgust following what she called "cruel and unnecessary" messages following her father's death, a move that has prompted Twitter to explore how it handles such situations.

Zelda Williams, 25, wrote that she was stepping away from her Twitter, Tumblr and Instagram accounts "for a good long time, maybe forever."

The move came after at least two users upset the grieving actress by sending disturbing images and verbal attacks. In one of her last tweets on Tuesday night, Williams asked fellow users to report her alleged tormentors to Twitter managers. "I'm shaking," she wrote.

One of the images was a Photoshopped image of Robin Williams purporting to be his corpse.

Well-wishers and fans online quickly rallied to Zelda Williams' defence, and the accounts of both alleged bullies were suspended by Wednesday.

"We will not tolerate abuse of this nature on Twitter," Twitter said in a statement Wednesday afternoon. "We have suspended a number of accounts related to this issue for violating our rules and we are in the process of evaluating how we can further improve our policies to better handle tragic situations like this one.

"This includes expanding our policies regarding self-harm and private information, and improving support for family members of deceased users."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This Nov. 13, 2011, file photo shows actor Robin Williams, left, and his daughter, Zelda, at the premiere of Happy Feet Two in Los Angeles. KATY WINN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Deep-space missions

New tech could provide health care to astronauts

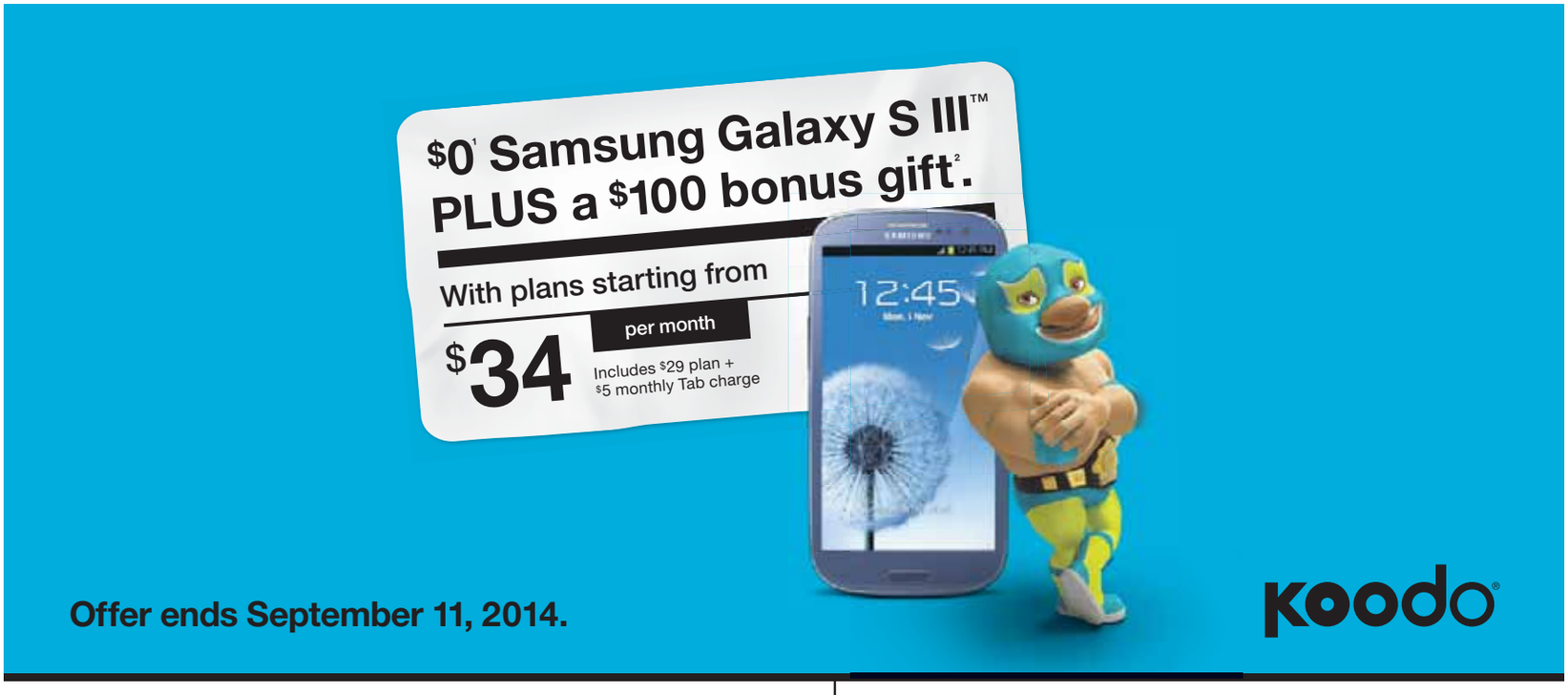
A new Canadian technology could be the key to ensuring astronauts' health and well-being on deep-space missions.

Researchers at St. Mary's Hospital in Montreal are part of a team developing health technology to provide remote care to astronauts.

It sounds like something out of science fiction — a virtual medical consultant combining the knowledge of a psychologist, occupational therapist, family doctor and emergency-room physician all in one.

The technology uses body sensors to constantly monitor an astronaut's health as well as software that can provide real-time treatment instructions to the crew's medical officer.

Researchers say the technology, which is at a concept phase and requires more funding to go forward, could also be applied on Earth. THE CANADIAN PRESS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.wtf? Yes, that is a real domain name suffix

Dot what?! The days of only .com or .ca are over, and a Canadian has launched one of the most popular alternative web suffixes so far — .club

Guessing a website address used to be so simple. Stick a .com or .ca at the end of a company or organization's name and most of the time, that would do it.

But there's a flood of new generic top-level domains (gTLDs) hitting the web, which could eventually leave consumers struggling to remember which of more than 1,400 web suffixes to type in.

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) is in the process of gradually rolling out all kinds of new web address types, including .best, .buzz, .cheap, .cool, .expert, .guru, .ninja, .sexy and .wtf.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

New Canadian .club?

The most popular domain suffix so far has been .club, which was launched by Canadian Colin Campbell, , who previously founded the companies Internet Direct, Tucows and Hostopia.

- More than 90,000 .club URLs have been registered so far and a few were sold off for five-figure fees.

Tech. Amazon squares off against Square with new credit-card reader and app

Amazon is taking direct aim at mobile payment systems such as Square by introducing the Amazon Local Register in the U.S., a credit-card processing device and mobile app designed to help small business owners accept payments through their smartphones and tablets.

The move places the largest U.S. e-commerce retailer in competition with Square and other established mobile payment processing systems such as PayPal Here and Intuit's GoPayment.

Amazon's technology includes a card reader that attaches to a smartphone, Kindle or tablet. The reader processes credit or debit card payments via a secure Amazon network, the same one that processes Amazon.com purchases. The service is designed to serve on-the-go small business owners who might otherwise only accept cash or cheques, including massage therapists, food truck operators and artists who sell their work at outdoor fairs.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This image provided by Amazon shows Amazon Local Register, the company's new credit-card processing device and mobile app. AMAZON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Violates charter rights?

Ontario women sue Ottawa over U.S. information-sharing

Canada has violated the charter rights of nearly a million Canadians by agreeing to share their financial details with authorities in the United States, two Ontario women allege in a new lawsuit.

In the suit against the Attorney General of Canada, they accuse Ottawa of breaching the Constitution by complying with a sweeping new American tax fraud law, known as the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act.

Under the terms of the legislation that took effect last month, banks must share all personal and joint account details of anyone deemed to be a "U.S. person." This includes American citizens and people born in the U.S., even those with no existing ties to the country. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

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Standing out from the crowd

Personalize it. Your children can choose to differentiate themselves from their classmates

YLVA VAN BUUREN
For Metro

Started your back-to-school shopping?

The trend today is to personalize kids' stuff.

At the most basic level, putting names on pencil cases, knapsacks, and running shoes, for example, is going to be helpful if they get lost or forgotten on the school bus. But there's also the fun, fashion, and identity-forming statements that they make too.

"Notwithstanding the fact kids love their stuff personalized," says Patricia Mercurio, owner of Signature Little Ones, "they identify with it, they learn from it, and it's cool."

School can be an identity-threatening institution, says Irvin Wolkoff, a Toronto psychiatrist, writer and broadcaster. "There has to be a certain degree of limitation imposed on kids in school — and that's not necessarily a bad thing."

But, of course, kids develop their own tastes, preferences and styles, says Wolkoff. "As long as it's within acceptable societal limits, it's to be encouraged."

How can kids make a statement this fall?

• The **You Name It Baby!** preschoolers backpacks have comfortable, adjustable straps and an exterior zipper compartment for extra storage. Personalize these bags with your child's name. $21.99 + $6 to $8 embroidery at younameitbaby.com.

• Create your own Original or Performance shoe with **mi adidas**, a digital platform. You choose colours, material and details such as flags, logos, a number, or name. The d rose (pictured left) is named after NBA star Derrick Rose of the Chicago Bulls. $180 at adidas.ca.

• Kids use the supplied special marker to make notes or doodles on the cover of their notebook — and they're permanent until they decide to erase it. **Zwipes Customizable Notebook**, $7 at Staples, Walmart and Target.

• Sometimes it's all about style... and soft colourful spikes on the **MadPax 'Spiketus Rex'** pack say it all. In different colour combinations. $64.50 at signaturelittleones.com.

• A personalized tin lunch box by **I See Me** features your child's name on multiple sides. On the inside lid, there's a chalkboard where you can write a little note to your child each morning. $29.95 plus shipping from iseeme.com.

• Make your own label with **Mabel's Labels** iron-on labels. Simply write your child's name on the label with any permanent marker and iron it onto the clothing. 28 laundry-safe labels, $10 at Walmart.

Allergy Alert labels.

• When ID is critical, use a peel-and-stick personalized **Allergy Alert** label on kids' lunch boxes, drink bottles, etc. Labels are dishwasher and microwave safe, waterproof, and UV resistant. 40 labels, $19.95 at lovablelabels.ca

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I TOTALLY MADE ALL OF THIS UP

HE SAYS
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

It's time for another issue of The Beaver Examiner, a publication that will always be proudly independent from facts. I make no money running The BeavEx, but I don't lose any, making it the most successful newspaper in North America. Here's the news:

Hollywood anxiously awaits Death No. 3
LOS ANGELES – Well aware that the trinity is not complete until one more celebrity dies, Hollywood stars are refusing to leave their homes as they wait to learn who will complete the group that began with comic genius Robin Williams and legendary actress Lauren Bacall. "What's really unnerving is it could be anyone," actor George Clooney said from a secure bunker underneath his L.A. bungalow. "It could be something sad, but not that shocking, like Mel Brooks, or it could be a complete surprise, like George Clooney."

Vancouver Aquarium ban on whale, dolphin breeding upsets whales, dolphins
VANCOUVER – A decision by the Vancouver Park Board to ban the breeding of aquatic animals at the Vancouver Aquarium has been met with mixed reactions from scientists, and universal condemnation from the animals in question. "Let me get this straight," dolphin Helen said through a translator. "First you give me as much space to move as a downtown condo dweller, and now you take away the only fun I get? Why don't you just harpoon me now?"

Neighbourhood tidies up only when Google car visits
SAINT JOHN, N.B. – Residents of the South End admit that though they always mean to get around to it sooner, they clean up only when they know Google will be visiting. Locals recently put on their best clothes, painted over the graffiti and picked up garbage that had been littering the sidewalks since the last time the Google Street View Car was through. "It never seems that bad, and then I hear the car coming and suddenly all I can see is abandoned dog poop," said resident Colin Mackin.

Increasingly desperate Edward Snowden releases NSA employees' middle names
UNDISCLOSED LOCATION, RUSSIA – Quickly running out of revelations to share, NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden has released over two dozen potentially embarrassing middle names of NSA and CIA employees, including "Alexis" and "Marion." Snowden said the middle names the U.S. government would prefer to keep secret go all the way back to the founding of the NSA, when its first chief Ralph Canine tried to hide his middle name, Julian. Snowden also promised "big news" in September when he reveals how seldom NSA head Keith Alexander washed his hands after using the washroom.

Like diving from your desk ...

Christophe Bailhache surveys Christ of the Abyss, with the SVII cameras off the coast of Key Largo, Fla. U.S. government scientists hope people will soon be able to go online and get a 360-degree view of reefs and other underwater wonders, much like Google Map's Street View lets people look at homes.
PHILIP DUNSTAN/CATLIN SEAVIEW SURVEY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

... OK, no it isn't, but it *is* like Street View for reefs, other wonders

It's easy to go online and get a 360-degree, ground-level view of almost any street throughout the world. Soon, scientists hope people will be able to do the same with coral reefs and other underwater wonders.

U.S. government scientists are learning to use specialized fish-eye lenses underwater in the Florida Keys this week in hopes of applying Street View mapping to research and management plans in marine sanctuaries nationwide.

Some of the rotating and panoramic images will be available online as early as this week, including a selection on Google Maps, giving the public a window into ecosystems still difficult and costly to explore for long stretches of time.

About 400,000 images have been produced so far of reefs off Australia and in the Caribbean, but this is the first time the technology is being used in North American waters.

The images in the U.S. will add scale and details to data that's already been collected, and illustrate the successes and failures of coral restoration.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

View down under

In images previewed by project director Richard Vevers, endangered elkhorn coral, bleached fields of dead coral and coral nurseries suspended like hanging plants in the Keys' blue waters were in sharp focus as they rotated on screen.

- In an hour-long dive, each camera can capture images over an area up to 20 times larger than what's available with traditional underwater photography equipment, Vevers said.

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Under the weather

ANDREW FIFIELD
andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

Depending on where you call home, you've likely encountered some very hostile rainstorms and associated flooding this summer, often with scant warning. American states are dealing with very similar events, including Nebraska. On Saturday alone, the town of Kearney endured about nine centimetres of rain — triple the average amount for the entire month of August. The result can be seen here, as CCTV captures a terrifying surge of water crashing through the doors and windows to flood a dining room. (Good Samaritan Hospital/YouTube)

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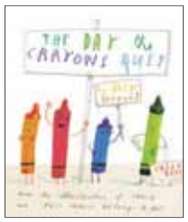

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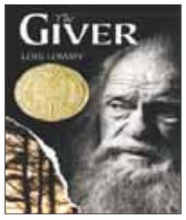

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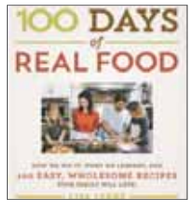

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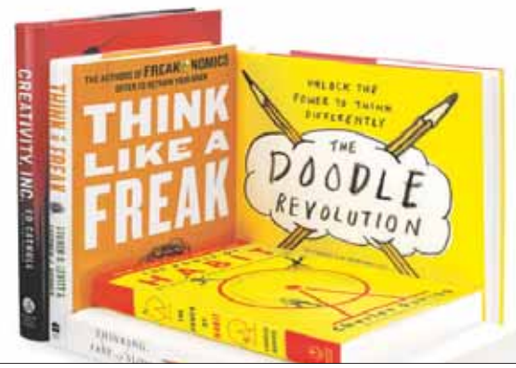

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Steve Carell, left, as John du Pont and Channing Tatum as Mark Schultz star in Foxcatcher, a movie based on the true story of an Olympic wrestler. SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

Yes, we Cannes, Vancouver

Film Festival. An impressive list of award-winning films are coming to VIFF

BACKSTAGE PASS
Graeme McRanor
vancouver@metronews.ca

It's time to start thinking about films. Good films. You know, the kind of films you don't normally see down at the local Cineplex.

I'm talking about the high-water mark for cinematasticness. The film festival of film festivals. The apex of art-house awesomeness.

I'm talking about Cannes.

But most of us can't go to Cannes. So the folks at the Vancouver International Film Festival are bringing Cannes to us. Here are this year's crop of award winners that you can see at VIFF:

Winter Sleep
Turkey/Germany/France
Winner of the Palme d'Or
Set in Turkey, this film is about a former actor who now runs a mountaintop hotel in the midst of a failing marriage.

The Wonders
Italy/Switzerland/Germany
Winner, Grand Prix
A story about a young girl coming of age while her beekeeper father attempts to avoid financial ruin.

Foxcatcher
USA
Winner, Best Director
Bennett Miller, director of Capote and Moneyball, explores the true story of an Olympic wrestler (Channing Tatum) and his "well-heeled, mentally imbalanced" sponsor (Steve Carell).

Leviathan
Russia
Winner, Best Screenplay
Basic premise: A dispute between a garage owner and a small-town mayor. Bigger picture: A commentary on a nation plagued by corruption.

Mr. Turner
UK/France/Germany
Winner, Best Actor
Acclaimed director Mike Leigh is back with the always great Timothy Spall as J.W. Turner in his final years.

Goodbye to Language 3D
France
Winner, Prix du Jury (ex aequo)
Jean-Luc Godard directs this loosely structured story of the problems encountered by an adulterous couple.

Jauja
Argentina/Denmark/France/Mexico/Germany/Brazil
Winner, FIPRESCI Prize, Un Certain Regard.
Lisandro Alonso helms an existential exploration about a Danish engineer (Viggo Mortensen) who journeys into the Patagonian wilderness to look for his missing daughter.

Love at First Sight
France
Winner, FIPRESCI Prize, Directors' Fortnight
An oddball romantic comedy set in a boot camp. What else do you need to know?

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Duran Duran hit stage, studio and big screen

From left, Duran Duran members John Taylor, Roger Taylor, Nick Rhodes and Simon Le Bon. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DD Unstaged. Film by David Lynch enhances footage from the band's livestream performance in 2011

Nick Rhodes is on the phone to talk about Duran Duran's concert film collaboration with director David Lynch that's slated for a one-night-only theatrical engagement next month.

As he talks of being inspired by Lynch's The Elephant Man as a teenager, he can hear another one of his inspirations nearby: Nile Rodgers on guitar. "I can actually hear him playing the guitar just down the corridor from where I am right now," Rhodes says gleefully.

Next month will mark a period of high activity for Duran Duran. Along with work to finish a new album, the band will appear at the Fashion Rocks concert at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, N.Y., on Sept. 9 before releasing Duran Duran: Unstaged in more than 300 North American theatres on Sept. 10.

The film is an enhanced version of Lynch's original livestream presentation, with tweaks and enhancements to improve on the 2011 original.

"It went out on the Internet just exactly as we played it," explains Rhodes. "Of course, there were some things that didn't work quite as well as others, and footage that didn't sync up in the most beautiful place that it could have done ... so it's had a proper polish. It's been refined for cinema, and it looks beautiful, too. The print is fantastic."

Lynch chose to shoot the film in black and white — like The Elephant Man, which Rhodes and John Taylor saw together in a Birmingham, England, theatre as teenagers — and created a series of images to run over the top of the band's performance.

"There was a room filled with smoke all the time," Rhodes said.

"There was another room where there were a lot of actors doing strange things.

"Then he pre-prepared some other footage, which varied between sort of hand puppets and airplanes and clocks and machinery, and this footage just sort of literally was superimposed over us playing ... and I think the results are really pretty unusual." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Douglas Coupland, *Brilliant Information Overload Pop Head*, 2010, acrylic and epoxy on pigment print, Collection of Lucia Haugen Lundin.

Shirinian takes the long view

It Was You Charlie. Short filmmaker's feature-length debut is a meditative tale of unrequited love and psychological misery

CHRIS ALEXANDER
scene@metronews.ca

It's hard to love a character like Abner, the flawed protagonist in writer/director Emmanuel Shirinian's feature debut It Was You Charlie.

The Telefilm-funded picture stars Michael D. Cohen as the downtrodden Abner, a night-shift doorman who once had a rather beautiful life as a professor and artist but who now wallows in misery following an accident in which a girl was killed. Spiralling into depression, self-pity and endless suicidal thoughts, Abner is a miserable creature and yet, under Shirinian's sure hand, we end up caring very deeply about his strange, surreal plight and want nothing more than to see him climb out of his self-made quagmire.

"He wasn't based on anybody, really — he's an outsider," the award-winning short filmmaker Shirinian says of his magnetic main character.

"He's the black sheep of the story and there was something appealing to me about a guy that had it all, and yet lost everything when something destructive happened, leaving him unable to surface. There was something heartbreaking about that. People ask me what kind of film this is and I say it's both an unrequited love story and an existential psychological thriller."

It Was You Charlie sees Shirinian adapting his craft for a larger canvas, with a denser narrative and obviously larger stakes, and commercial expectations figuring into his art for the first time. Still, the process remained the same.

"I made a bunch of short films, true," notes the director.

"But this was no different structurally, save for the amount of time we had. Your role as a director, I've found, is to be a salesman and a negotiator. It's a battle to find that balance but we were lucky in that I was free to make this movie on my own terms. Everything fell into place. This wasn't about a paycheque for myself and my cast and crew, rather it was about passion and just doing whatever we could do to make my vision a reality."

It Was You Charlie opens this Friday in Toronto. CONTRIBUTED

The beauty of the film is that Abner seems to drift in an uncanny environment, one that is like our own yet steeped in dream. With the benefit of Luc Montpellier's (Take This Waltz, Away From Her) gorgeous cinematography, we float with Abner in this uncomfortable, sometimes hostile, often beautiful ghost world, an honest attempt by its creator to sculpt a film that functions as an impression, rather than a clearly defined narrative movie.

"It's that between what is real and what is not that appeals to me. We didn't want clear defined edges about the timeline, about what is present and what is flashback. It's meditative almost and even a bit ambiguous. I like that about the film, very much."

Passion project

"This wasn't about a paycheque for myself and my cast and crew; rather, it was about passion and just doing whatever we could do to make my vision a reality."

Writer/director Emmanuel Shirinian on making It Was You Charlie

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Shocker! Hollywood couple splits over plastic bottle.

Brad and Christina call it quits because of irreconcilable recycling differences.

The power couple, also known as 'Bristina,' filed for divorce earlier this week after she was caught throwing a plastic bottle in the garbage. The discarded bottle told reporters, "What she did was just trashy and he needed to know about it." After a lavish wedding, the marriage lasted a total of 17 hours. And while that's average for most celebrity marriages, it still comes as a shock.

Once again, it looks like every bottle you don't recycle says something about you. ***So always return your plastic bottles for recycling.***

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"What she did was just trashy."

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Trading fine wine for a gunning good time

Kelsey Grammer. The man more commonly known as Frasier loosens his tie for a turn in an action flick

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Kelsey Grammer wants us to know he's tougher than we think he is. GETTY IMAGES

The third installment of The Expendables brings together even more '80s action flick talent than before. CONTRIBUTED

AUGMENTED REALITY

→ Need an action fix? Scan this photo with your Metro News app for some clips from Expendables 3

metro AR → See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Kelsey Grammer is one of several high-profile additions to the Expendables franchise for its third outing, and even he understands people might find his inclusion in the '80s throwback testosterone-fest something of a head-scratcher. But, as Grammer tells us, he's actually tougher than people think. "I'm working at the gym. I'm punching people in the streets," he jokes. "All those punch videos you've been seeing? That's me."

This is an interesting choice for you, this franchise. What was your reaction when they first approached you?

Actually they didn't approach me. I had heard there was a role available in The Expendables. I didn't know what it was, I didn't know how it was going to play out or what the requirements really were, but I knew if I pushed a little bit, maybe their imaginations would say, "Oh. Kelsey Grammer. OK, that's a surprise."

I'm a lot tougher than people think I am. If you know anything about my personal life, you'll realize that. I thought I could fulfil the requirements of an action film, should that be asked.

Is that something you've been looking to do?

Oh, I'd love to, I'd love to do it. And who knows, it may happen, it may not happen. But being in this film was a complete joy for me.

And Bonaparte actually is a terrific character. He's just a guy who used to be in some kind of mercenary world and stepped away and is a procurer, basically, now. He puts together teams and he's been making some pretty good money at it.

It was really fun to play, and we kind of just hit on this sort of Hemingway, broad-shouldered kind of guy who is in the background now a little bit. But my hope is now if we do another one, Bonaparte gets to don the military motley. So to speak.

That Hemingway-esque, life-on-the-road type seems fun.

Yeah, who lives big, has lived a big life — and believes in things that some of us believe in still about courage and about showing up and about taking a stand, being in the fight. I'm one of those guys. A man's man.

How does the breakdown of divisions between the film and TV worlds look from the perspective of someone who's been so successful on the TV side?

In England, you can go from television to film to stage seamlessly. Nobody has an issue. In America, yeah, we tend to kind of put people in these pockets. It was always my dream that I would break the bonds of Frasier at some point and have a chance to play some other roles. I think Boss helped that, and people went, "Oh wow, I had no idea."

Because they never do. So you have to show them. I did another comedy in England in the spring called Breaking the Bank that's about a British guy, and of course everybody there said, "I had no idea he was British!" Well, I'm not. I'm an actor.

So that's where we are, we're still trying to convince people that actors are actors, and we'll be OK.

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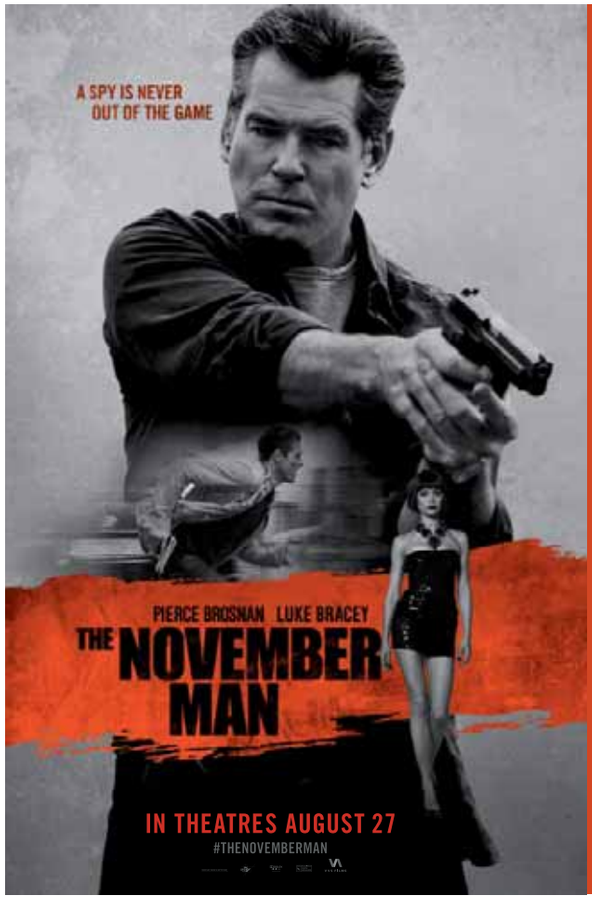

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Film

Meet the Spartans has a two per cent rating on Rotten Tomatoes but still took top spot at the box office in its opening weekend. CONTRIBUTED

Bad can still bring big box office bucks

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

For the most part, The Expendables movies have been met with critical disdain. The New Yorker's Anthony Lane christened the first film "breathtakingly sleazy in its lack of imagination," while reviewer James Kendrick said the second instalment, was "a better concept than it is a movie."

Both films star a who's who of 1980s action movie stars — Sylvester Stallone, Jason Statham, Dolph Lundgren, Chuck Norris, Jean-Claude Van Damme, Arnold Schwarzenegger and more — and have exterminated the competition, collecting an average of $289.9 million at the worldwide box office.

The new movie, inventively titled The Expendables 3, adds vintage action stars Wesley Snipes, Antonio Banderas, Mel Gibson and Harrison Ford to the mix and doubtless will add big bucks to the franchise's overall gross, whether the critics embrace it or not.

The Expendables movies appear to be bullet-proof to critical missiles but they aren't the first films to be lambasted by reviewers and then clean up at the box office.

Meet the Spartans, a parody of sword and sandal epics from the creators of Scary Movie, currently sits at a two per cent Tomatometer rating at Rotten Tomatoes, but that didn't stop it from taking the top spot at the box office, narrowly edging out Stallone's Rambo reboot, on its 2008 opening weekend. In the end, it made $84,646,831 worldwide — despite being called "one of the most painfully bad comedies I've ever had to endure," by Garth Franklin of Dark Horizons.

Adam Sandler is a fan favourite, but finds little love from the critics. Jack and Jill, a 2011 comedy that saw him play twin brother and sister, earned a whopping $149,673,788 worldwide, but was dubbed "relentlessly witless" by the Daily Star while New Zealand critic Liam Maguren wrote, "Burn this. This cannot be seen. By anyone."

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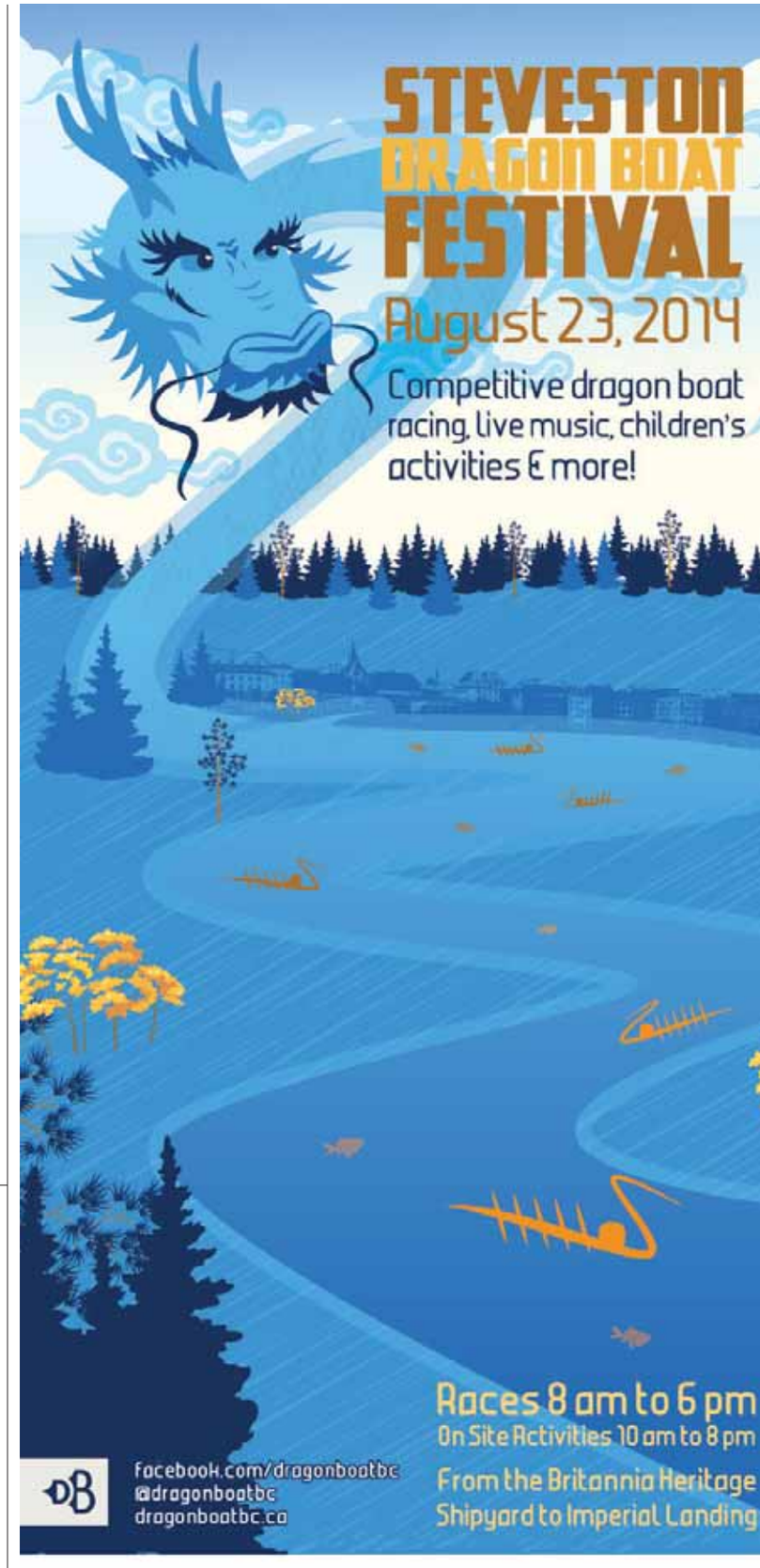

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Leah Remini and Jennifer Lopez ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Naked Jennifer Lopez seems a little too perfect to Leah Remini

Leah Remini isn't ashamed to admit that she checks out BFF Jennifer Lopez's body. But can you blame her? "I do stare at her naked and not in a crazy way but I'm like, 'What a bitch,'" Remini jokes to E! News. "And I'll tell her, too — 'Disclaimer: I'm staring at you, I'm looking for cellulite and looking for things that my mind could compute,' and she's like 'Well, just look and try to find it.'" They do sound like fun, don't they?

Simmons to immigrants: 'Learn goddamn English'

Gene Simmons is going the tough love route when it comes to immigrants who've just made it to the U.S. "I'm actually saying the thing that needs to be said because the politically correct climate is bulls—," Simmons tells HuffPost Live. "You don't want to upset anybody by saying, 'Learn to speak goddamn English.' So, as an immigrant, I'm telling you: Learn to speak goddamn English. It is the key that will unlock the keys to the kingdom. If you make the effort, then all the possibilities of this culture will open up for you and give you all the rewards that I've gotten." Even an arena football team?

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Blake dreams of a Lively litter, Ryan dreams of hot fudge

NED EHRBAR
Metro in Hollywood

Blake Lively is so hot on the idea of having kids, she's even envious of the birthing habits of other mammals.

"I've got to get started. If I could spit out a litter of kids, I would," she tells Marie Claire.

Sounds messy, and not at all like something you'd expect her Paltrow-ish lifestyle website, Preserve, to recommend. But hey, get your litter on, Blake.

As for husband Ryan Reynolds? His opinion on the matter, according to this totally-taken-out-of-context quote from the same interview?

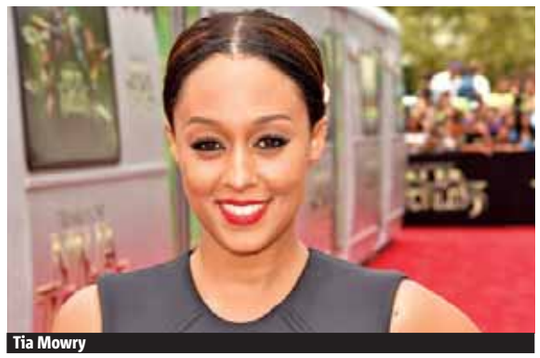
"Honestly, all he wants to eat is hot fudge sundaes," she says.

Twitter

@LilTunechi
Ain't no woman like da 1 I got.

@JohnCleese
19 days to finish auto biography. Nose to the grind stone ... finishing up school days.

@SethMacFarlane
Thank you, Lauren, for teaching us all how to whistle. You will be missed, but more than that, you will be celebrated.



Tia Mowry

Crushing or crunching, Tia-Theron gym dust-up 'blown out of proportion'

Tia Mowry wants to make sure everyone knows that Charlize Theron did not, in fact, try to get her banned from SoulCycle. The rumour started after Mowry mentioned running into the Oscar-winner at the trendy exercise studio only to find Theron "wasn't very nice to her." A couple of days later, and that's become Theron is trying to get the Sister, Sister star barred. "It was definitely blown out of proportion," Mowry says, according to Just Jared. "I do not know Charlize. I absolutely love her, she's my 'woman crush Wednesday,' you can even see it on my Instagram! I'm obsessed with her, I love her."

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It's a new dawn, it's a new shirt, and it's feeling good

A breakdown for the boys. Not sure where to begin your fall wardrobe hunt? Start with your sense of touch.

JOHN MACKAY
life@metronews.ca

A sports jacket in a subtle check is a great wardrobe addition. ISTOCK

If it feels good, wear it. You've heard that before, but not like this.

These days, it's as much about how clothes feel when you touch them, as it is how you look when you wear them. When you're searching for new style finds for chillier temperatures, prioritizing fabrics as well as intriguing patterns will land you some enviable finds.

Here are a few pointers to keep in mind while seeking out those essential pieces for next season:

If this is the fall you buy a new suit, then go for a dark grey flannel that has some weight to it. If you want to take a different direction, a wool sports jacket in a subtle check is a great alternative. By subtle, we're talking colour; the check itself can be large.

Where coats are concerned, you can aim for a classic wool topcoat in a heritage fabric or, since this is a year of mixing the dressed with the casual, a down-filled coat or three-quarter outdoors-looking jacket will work.

Look for something a little less puffy than the one you've been kicking around in the last couple of years. A duffle coat is a great idea as well.

The Brits call them roll necks, we call them turtlenecks and yes, turtleneck sweaters are sticking their heads out again. A fine wool turtleneck can replace shirt and tie under a tailored suit with black under black looking great for a big night out.

Fisherman knit and cable knit sweaters are going to be worth the financial outlay.

And while we're on sweaters, a good alternative to something heavy and textured is the new crop of geometrics including classic argyles in bold colours.

Get yourself a band-collared shirt, which is, essentially, a shirt without a collar. It will be perfect under a suit. There are bold coloured, patterned scarves to be had and you may have noticed that gold chains are looking kind of good again; one thin chain, nothing bling.

Fashion by the foot

- **Two-buckled, monk strap shoes are all set for their moment this fall, and there are some terrific boots, particularly hybrid hiking boots with a space-age look to them.** The one key thing to look for is a thicker sole, crepe if you see it. For socks, think solid colours not stripes, but look for textures and patterns like herringbone and paisley.

Trends Report

Toronto is currently hosting its first-ever Men's Fashion Week and in keeping up with the theme of men's fashion and style, Trends Report will look at five style mistakes men commonly make. Go online to read more and take the poll to let me know which men's style mistake you think is the most cringeworthy.

- **Online.** metronews.ca/trends-report

A man's must-haves

Designer Christopher Bates MAX JAMALI

Designer Christopher Bates took time away from Toronto Men's Fashion Week to give use his list of essential's every man should own:

1. **A casual sports jacket.** "It's the most dynamic piece a man can own. It can be dressed up or down and worn day or night."

2. **A tailored white dress shirt.** "This is the linchpin of a man's wardrobe. You should actually have at least three to account for time to dry clean it if you get lipstick on your collar..."

3. **A grey suit.** "When you're building your wardrobe, this is the first suit you should buy. Grey flatters most complexions and you can spice it up with a myriad of shirt and accessory options."

4. **Black leather bomber.** "Invest in a high-quality leather bomber and it will last you for ages and get better with time. It's an edgy piece that says you mean business."

5. **Tapered blue jeans.** "The key here is fit. Boot cut or straight leg are simply unflattering. A tapered leg makes you look taller, trimmer and more stylish. Try dressing them up with a casual sports jacket or pressed white dress shirt."

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Easy ways to add art to your dorm

Not allowed to hang art? Here are a few solutions to the age-old dorm room rule

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Many student accommodations insist on the no-nail holes rule in dorm room and student housing walls. In most cases, not even tape is allowed. So how does a decor-conscious student get creative when displaying art in their personal space?

Here are some alternatives that will allow you the luxury of adding personality without breaking any rules.

Hang in there

Mount a large framed photo without leaving nail holes or a sticky residue on the walls. 3M-Command Large Picture Hanging Strips, $5, Walmart.ca.

Sleep on the bright side

If you keep your bed tidy, then you'll always have a giant piece of art to brighten your room. Duchess Grand Duvet Cover, $129, UrbanOutfitters.com.

Get hooked

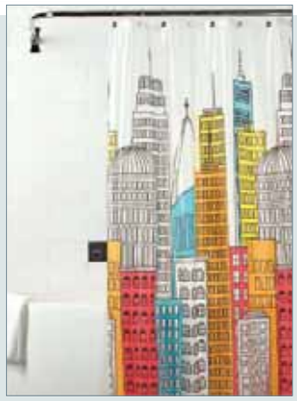
Hang your art from a single hook that attaches over a rarely used closet door. Deluxe Single Over Door Hook, $11, BedBathAndBeyond.ca.

Stick with it

Easy to apply and always easy to reposition, artsy decals stick to any smooth surface. Black/White Frames Kit designed by Jonathan Adler for WallPops, $43, WallPops.com.

Take a bold shower

Skyscrapers rise in a vintage graphic, adding a vibrant print to your bathroom. Metropolitan Shower Curtain, $20, Simons.ca.



Could rolling robo-guard be as lovable as Rover?

OK, it's not quite Robocop, but Jr. will be able to roll around your apartment, house or office, constantly scanning to make sure all is well and letting you know as soon as it thinks it isn't.

Jr. will come with audio sensors and integrated cameras plus almost 360-degree vision and will be able to connect to the home network or to other devices using Bluetooth.

Rather than rely on someone to guide it via a remote control, Jr. will learn to adapt to its surroundings and develop a map so it can navigate around the home without crashing into walls or furniture.

"Our primary advantage over existing security systems is that there is no invasive installation, our software uses machine learning to get smarter over time, and the device does not remain in a static, predictable position," says Roambotics CEO and co-founder Scott Menor.

For the moment, Roambotics will be focusing on developing Jr.'s home security skills, but the long-term goal is to build on the robot's features and uses over time so that it will become as much a part of the home as the washing machine or television.

Jr., from Roambotics.
BUSINESS WIRE

One of the family

> "Our goal is to make a personal robot that is an integrated part of your household. We want Jr. to look and feel robust ... and to be intuitive and useful."
>
> Roambotics CEO and co-founder Scott Menor

For example, the high-quality cameras that will initially search for signs of a break-in or disturbance could just as easily be used to spontaneously capture those Kodak moments around the home.

"Our goal is to make a personal robot that is an integrated part of your household," says Menor.

"We want Jr. to look and feel robust — like an appliance that belongs in your home — and to be intuitive and useful."

AFP

Duelling social robots: Jr. vs. Jibo

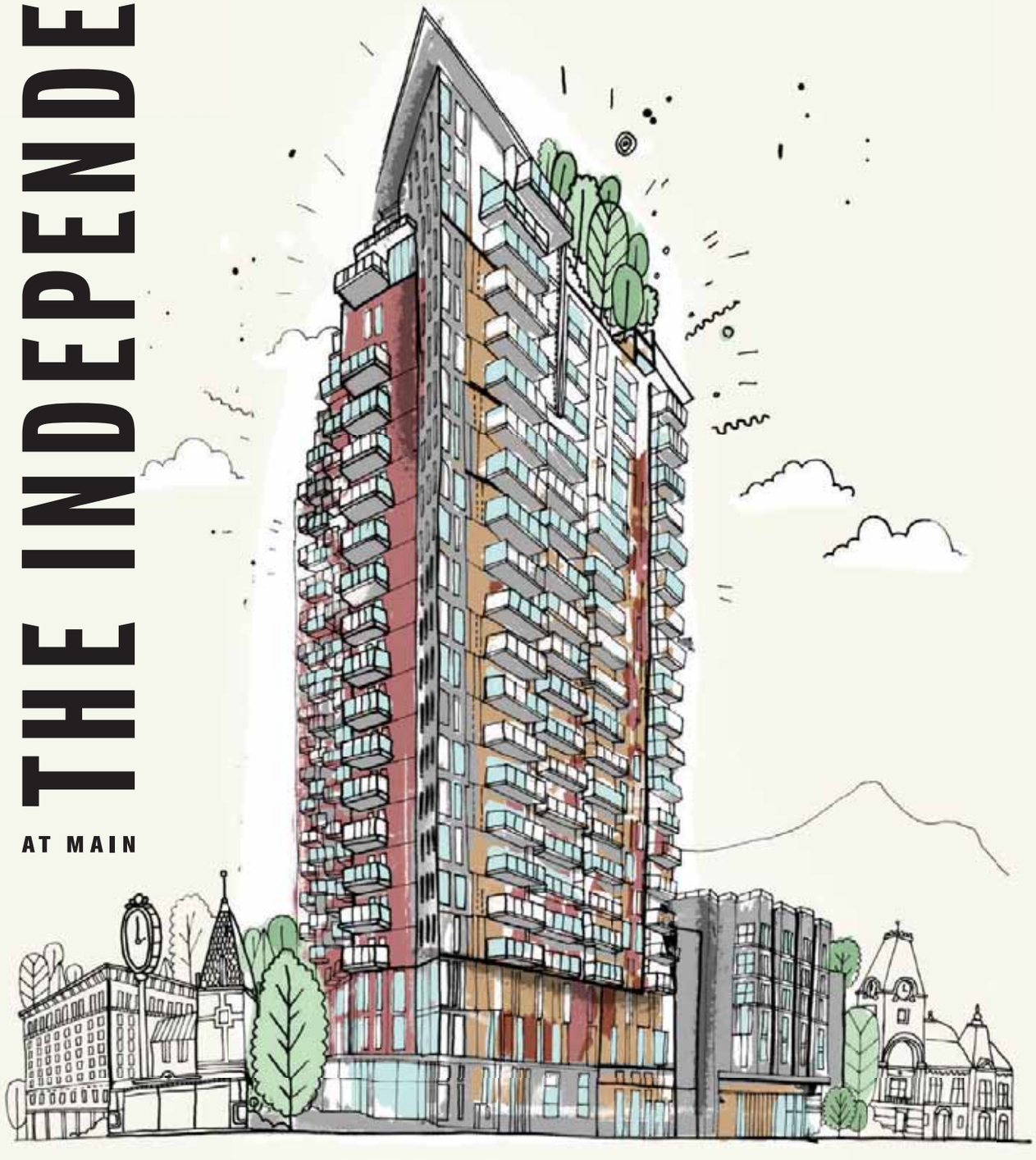
Roambotics is not the only company to have set itself such an ambitious goal. Jibo, the brainchild of social robotics pioneer Dr. Cynthia Breazeal, also wants to be the first robot member of the family.

Launched as an Indiegogo campaign on July 16, the project has pulled in nearly $1.5 million in pledges to date (over 10 times its $100,000 funding target).

- Unlike Jr., Jibo can't move freely around the home but it will respond to natural voice commands and have a tablet-like display that doubles as a face.
- What both robots have in common is that they are still technically in the development stage.
- Jibo's builders are targeting a 2016 launch and as for Jr., it has just won the Proto Labs Cool Idea! award, which offers companies with an interesting or intuitive product access to the funding and expertise necessary to get it to market, quickly.
- However, while Proto Labs' backing will get Jr. onto the market sooner, rather than later, there is currently no fixed date as to when that will be, or how much Jr. will cost when he's ready to make his first security patrol.

THE INDEPENDENT

AT MAIN



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Fall is having a Highland fling

Mad for plaid.
From tweeds and tartans to terriers and thistles, decor adopts all things Scottish

Where fashion goes, decor follows. And this fall, the fashionistas are inspired by Scotland.

Plaid capes, kilts and coats hit the fall 2014 catwalk for Saint Laurent and Stella McCartney. Marchesa showed tartan-printed lace, argyle and fur, and deconstructed kilt patterns into a dress collection. Brazilian label Animale used Celtic and druid patterns, and shot their ad campaign against a rocky, Braveheart-esque background.

Maybe it's Scotland's referendum on independence that's drawn designers' attention.

If you're ready to add a little Highland fling to your living space this season, there are lots of options.

Rich woods, squooshy sofas, rubbed bronze and landscape prints evoke the Caledonian country manor. The look — traditional and tasteful — can be dressed up or down.

And modern interpretations also abound, with oversize or edited classic patterns, layering of aged items with new, and playful versions of iconic Scottish elements.

Clan of the cloth

Scottish style is rich with clan tartans and evocative motifs drawn from a long and tempestuous history. The colour palette is equally rich: Deep lichen greens, rainy greys, cranberry, moat blue, malt and butterscotch. In paints, check out Devine Color's Oat, Thunder and Juniper; Sherwin Williams' Loch Blue and Salute; Farrow & Ball's Pigeon. (devinecolour.com; sherwin-williams.com; farrow-ball.com)

Tartan plates take the Scottish decor trend to the table.
PENDLETON-USA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A herringbone to pick

Look for archetypal patterns like herringbone, plaid, tweed, lace and argyle. Pottery Barn's Alana lace printed bedding; Target's Threshold Paisley print lampshade; Missoni's tweed pouf; and Graham & Brown's argyle wallpapers are at AllModern. (allmodern.com)

Pine Cone Hill's Greyville Tartan rug has lovely muted tones, and at Wayfair, there are Milliken's Magee rugs in amber, gold and emerald plaids. (pineconehill.com; wayfair.com)

Put on a Mackintosh

Charles Rennie Mackintosh's elegant rose and Arts and Crafts motifs are interpreted in pretty lighting and window and wall stencils at JustMackintosh.com.

Reproductions of vintage Scotland travel advertising are available at Art.com.

Stag party

At LampsPlus.com, there's a selection of Woolrich throw pillows featuring stags' heads, pheasants and plaid trims. Here too are Townshend's Journey rug in a soft grey tartan, argyle print doormats and canvas pillows with regal crests.

DwellStudio's Thistle Vine pillow features a striking yet simple graphic of the plant printed in dark brown on a background the colour of the foam on a glass of Bellhaven ale. (lumens.com)

Great Scottie!

More modern interpretations of Scottish icons are at Cafepress.com, including a rug featuring a Scottish terrier's silhouette superimposed on the bright blue and white of the flag.

Toiles and thistles

Scottish design studio Timorous Beasties' Thistle wallpaper comes in several moody colour schemes reminiscent of a Scotch mist. They've also created the edgy Glasgow Toile, which at first glance looks like a typical toile filled with vignettes, but on closer inspection depicts life on the seedier side of the city. (timorousbeasties.com)

Take to tartan

Michelle Pattee's photo of a regal stag is silkscreened onto hemp and backed in velvet to make a pillow at Pendleton-USA.com. The retailer also has some porcelain mugs and dessert plates in a jaunty tartan.

Materials associated with Scottish style have patina and a sense of age about them. Think "heritage woods" — mahogany, chestnut and oak. Warm bronze and pewter. Candlesticks and vases with Celtic designs. (scotweb.co.uk)

Be manor enough

Leather and faux leather accessories are a good way to introduce a bit of the Scottish manor look without investing in a large piece of furniture. Check Homegoods for small storage boxes and trunks clad in faux leather, or spend a brisk fall Sunday prowling a good antiques market for items with provenance.

Pat Renson is an interior designer based in Auchterarder, near Scotland's famed Gleneagles golf course. She puts tartan and plaid on modern sofas and chairs. Velvety woodland-print pillows are paired with quilted linen headboards, in muted hues of ivory and earth. (patrenson.com) THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Raise the antler

Look for items with key, thistle, antler, knot and shield motifs.

- **Sir Edwin Landseer's iconic painting of a mighty stag, Monarch of the Glen, is available in prints and on pillows at Zazzle.com.**
- **The retailer also stocks William Morris-print wall clocks, pillows and stationery.**

LAMPSPLUS.COM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Have a houndstooth

For a contemporary edge, consider the Crystal Keltic Oreo black-and-white houndstooth print chair — an awkward name for a sophisticated piece. You'll find co-ordinating ottomans with the same oversize print; lampsplus.com.

Argyle, matey

Argyle wallpaper is an unexpected way to introduce a touch of Scottish flair to a space. Graham & Brown's version comes in several different colourways.

ALLMODERN.COM/
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Go to tweed

Missoni Home's Nalco pouf ottoman is covered in a natty ruby and oatmeal tweed fabric.

ALLMODERN.COM/
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Wrapping up the Caribbean

Pack a picnic. Jerk Chicken Wraps contain classic island flavours like mango, pineapple and jerk marinade

This recipe serves four to six. CHRIS DE LA ROSA OF CHRISDELAROSA.COM

1. Garlicky Spread: In a food processor or blender, combine the yogurt, cucumber, olive oil, lemon juice, salt, pepper, dill, garlic and honey (if using). Process until well combined then transfer to a separate dish, cover and refrigerate for at least one hour for best flavour.

2. Clean chicken pieces with the lemon juice and cool water, drain and place in a bowl. Cover in jerk marinade and allow to marinate for at least 1 hour.

3. In the meantime, move your oven rack so it's about 6 to 8 inches away from the main heat source and set your oven to the broil setting. Line a baking pan with tin foil and brush it with oil or use cooking spray. Place the chicken on the lined pan, cover with any remaining marinade and broil for 10 minutes. Remove from the oven, flip over and broil for another 8 minutes. If using thick chicken breast, broil an additional 4 minutes. Set aside to cool.

4. Blanch carrots by bringing to boil about 3 cups of water and tossing them in for 25 seconds. Immediately transfer to bowl with ice water to stop cooking process. Drain and pat dry with paper towels. Shred the lettuce.

5. When chicken is cool, slice into 1/4 inch strips and if you have any drippings in the baking pan, pour over the sliced chicken and give it a good mix.

6. Take a flour tortilla and spread about a teaspoon of the Garlicky Spread across a 1-inch strip the length of the tortilla. Across one end, place a bit of chicken, carrots, mango, pineapple, lettuce and cucumber ribbons, and roll tightly, tucking everything in as you do so. Slice in the middle so you have two pieces of Jerk Chicken Wrap. Hold together with toothpicks. **RECIPE COURTESY THE VIBRANT CARIBBEAN POT 100 TRADITIONAL AND FUSION RECIPES VOL 2 BY CHRIS DE LA ROSA (CARIBBEANPOT.COM)**

Ingredients

- 3 lbs boneless chicken breast
- Juice of 1 lemon
- 1 1/2 cups jerk marinade
- 1 tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 1/2 each cups carrots, julienned; lettuce; firm mango, julienned; pineapple chunks; cucumber ribbons (use a potato peeler)
- 8-10 (10 inch) flour tortillas

Garlicky Spread

- 2 (8oz) containers plain Greek yogurt
- 1 cucumber; peeled, seeded and diced
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- Juice of 1/2 lemon
- Salt and black pepper to taste
- 1 tbsp dill, chopped
- 3 cloves of garlic
- Few drops of honey (optional)

Cookbook of the Week

Visit the islands from your kitchen

CHRIS DE LA ROSA

Chris De La Rosa first released The Vibrant Caribbean Pot as an e-book and this printed version contains 40 more recipes for 100 dishes that span a range of islands. Aside from demystifying Caribbean cooking through informative sections that detail common herbs and ingredients, and much more, The Vibrant Caribbean Pot is full of De La Rosa's personal anecdotes and memories of growing up in Trinidad and Tobago.Among the dishes are Ultimate Curry Chicken, Stewed Pumpkin with Shrimp, Cassava Pone, and more. **METRO**

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4 SPORTS

Two-game sweep

Baltimore bats bust up Bronx Bombers late

Jonathan Schoop and Adam Jones homered in a four-run eighth inning, and the Baltimore Orioles rallied to beat the New York Yankees 5-3 Wednesday night for a two-game sweep of the rain-shortened series.

Limited to three hits through seven innings, Baltimore trailed 2-1 before Schoop tied it with a drive off Dellin Betances. Shawn Kelley (2-4) then gave up a single and a walk before Jones hit a shot into the bullpen area beyond the centre-field wall.

It was the eighth straight series win for the AL East-leading Orioles, who increased their margin over the fading third-place Yankees to eight games.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

K.C. back in win column

Vargas, Royals shut out A's

Jason Vargas tossed a three-hitter for his sixth career shutout, Omar Infante hit a two-run homer and the Kansas City Royals beat the Oakland Athletics 3-0 on Wednesday night.

Vargas (9-5) retired the final 23 batters he faced in only his third start since an emergency appendectomy. The left-hander also helped Kansas City bounce back from having an eight-game winning streak snapped and maintain a half-game lead over Detroit in the AL Central.

Salvador Perez drove in the Royals' other run off Scott Kazmir (13-5).

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

M's leave Blue Jays winless in Seattle

MLB. Mariners cap 3-game sweep, look to be on a mission in wild-card race

CAM TUCKER
cam.tucker@metronews.ca

Mariners shortstop Brad Miller attempts to turn a double-play after forcing the Blue Jays' Munenori Kawasaki out at second base on Wednesday in Seattle. OTTO GREULE JR/GETTY IMAGES

The Toronto Blue Jays came to Seattle riding an adrenaline wave of two comeback extra-inning wins over the Detroit Tigers, getting them back into the American League wild-card race.

They came to town with so much travelling fanfare from north of the border, especially with Seattle's close proximity to Vancouver and the Canadian border.

They leave the Emerald City with a broom trail behind them, having been swept in a pivotal three-game series by the surging Mariners. More importantly, for Toronto's playoff aspirations, the Blue Jays have now fallen three games back in the battle for the second wild-card spot.

The Mariners took Wednesday's game 2-0.

Knuckleball pitcher R.A. Dickey took to the mound for the Blue Jays in the series finale on Wednesday, and quickly served up a two-run home run to Kendrys Morales in the first inning.

Not the best start.

But he managed to pitch his way out of some jams and got some help from his defence along the way. Certainly it should have been enough to give his teammates a chance to get the bats going.

On Wednesday

Mariners	Blue Jays
2	0

They didn't get going. Mariners pitcher Hisashi Iwakuma was sharp throughout, forcing a lot of ground balls, making life easy for his infielders and miserable for Toronto hitters.

He pitched shutout baseball right until he was taken out of the game in the top of the seventh.

The Blue Jays looked tired in the first game of this series. They had just come off a 19-inning win over Detroit, and had to fly from Toronto to Seattle, touching down around 12:30 a.m. Monday.

The Mariners, on the other hand, looked like a team on a mission.

The Blue Jays continue their eight-game road trip with a three-game series against the Chicago White Sox, beginning Friday.

The Mariners now go into Detroit for a three-game series with the Tigers, beginning Friday. It's a matchup of the two teams tied for the second wild-card spot.

Raonic cruises into 3rd round, Pospisil falls

Milos Raonic emerged as the only Canadian winner at the Western & Southern Open on Wednesday after the fifth seed defeated American Robby Ginepri to advance to the third round.

Raonic, from Thornhill, Ont., beat Ginepri in straight sets, 6-2, 6-2.

Wimbledon finalist Eugenie Bouchard of Westmount, Que., meanwhile, suffered another hard-court disappointment in losing to Russian Svetlana Kuznetsova 6-4, 3-6, 6-2. Earlier, Vancouver's Vasek Pospisil pushed Roger Federer to a third set before falling to the tournament's second seed.

Raonic says he was pleased with his performance, but is looking for improvement.

"I felt great after the first match of the week," said the Wimbledon semifinalist. "These were much different conditions than last week at the Rogers Cup.

"But I came up with the right mentality and was able to execute well. I wasn't particularly nervous. I knew how I'd prepared and what to expect. I was able to break right away and that made things go well from the beginning."

Federer, third in the ATP world rankings, is coming off an appearance in the finals of the Rogers Cup in Toronto. Federer lost that match to Jo-Wilfried Tsonga.

The Swiss tennis star beat Pospisil 7-6 (4), 5-7, 6-2 in the second-round match on centre court to become the only man to reach 300 wins at the Masters 1000 level in men's singles. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vancouver's Vasek Pospisil volleys against Roger Federer at the Western & Southern Open on Wednesday in Mason, Ohio. AL BEHRMAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Van Gaal quick to pick his battles at United

Showing off. Dutch manager wastes no time making himself noted at Old Trafford

Man United's general manager Louis van Gaal, right, with coach Ryan Giggs at a friendly match against Spain's Valencia. CLIVE BRUNSKILL/GETTY IMAGES

"Welcome to Vanchester" reads the message on a giant billboard on one of Manchester's busy streets.

Above the words, a picture of a smiling Louis van Gaal, his arms outstretched in a triumphant pose, dominates the red background.

And it's not just the landscape of the city that is changing following Van Gaal's hiring as Manchester United manager.

With three days to go until the Premier League season begins, English football is also wising up to the fact it has a new firebrand coach in its midst, someone who has never been afraid to speak his mind or issue reminders of his qualities and past achievements.

Manchester City, the reigning Premier League champion, is talking about finally making its mark in Europe. Arsenal is sensing its best chance to win the league title in years. And Chelsea has been installed as one of the favourites for the championship following the arrival of attackers Diego Costa and Cesc Fabregas.

Van Gaal has wasted no time in making his presence felt at Old Trafford and, as expected, he's been in the thick of the headlines.

Already, he's spoken of his concerns that United's vast commercial commitments were impinging on football matters.

He's questioned the suitability of the main field at United's training centre. He has changed the formation of the team to one rarely used in English football: a 3-5-2. He has been openly critical of one of his player's fitness (new signing Luke Shaw). And he is in the process of overhauling the playing squad, with some high-profile names either already out or starting to pack their bags.

"Manchester United shall do everything to adapt to my rules for good preparation," he said then.

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Liberté, Égalité ... Rugby

Canada's Elissa Alarie fights through a tackle by French players during the women's Rugby World Cup in Paris. Canada moved to the final with a tense 18-16 win over the hosts. Scan the image with your Metro News app for a gallery of Wednesday's action. FRED DUFOUR/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Golf

Injured Tiger won't be in Ryder Cup

Tiger Woods removed himself from consideration for the Ryder Cup team Wednesday evening, with a clear message that he is not healthy enough to play in the tournament.

One day after U.S. captain Tom Watson said he trusted Woods to give him the "straight skinny" on the condition of his back injury and his game, Woods said he called the captain to say he would not be available.

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AUGMENTED REALITY

Stuck on 12 Across? Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.

→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
The deal you are being offered may seem generous but make sure you read the small print carefully before deciding if it is the right deal for you.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Friends and loved ones have the upper hand at the moment and if you are smart you will not make a fuss.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Cosmic activity in the work area of your chart makes this a good time to get started on things of a practical nature. Set targets but make sure they are ones you can reach.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Mars and Pluto will combine over the next 48 hours to give your ego and energy a much-needed boost. You won't lack for self-belief, so much so that you honestly believe all things are possible. Aim high.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
If you have done something you feel less than happy, about now would be a good time to own up to it. If you confess your "sin" you will be forgiven.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You won't let little things like work and domestic commitments hold you back today. As far as you are concerned it's OK to have fun. In fact, it's demanded.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
The planets suggest you are thinking about buying something costly. It's your money and you can do what you want with it but is it something you need or is it an impulse purchase? Think it over.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You have the power to reach out and take whatever it is you want to possess, so what are you waiting for? Don't let other people's doubts hold you back.

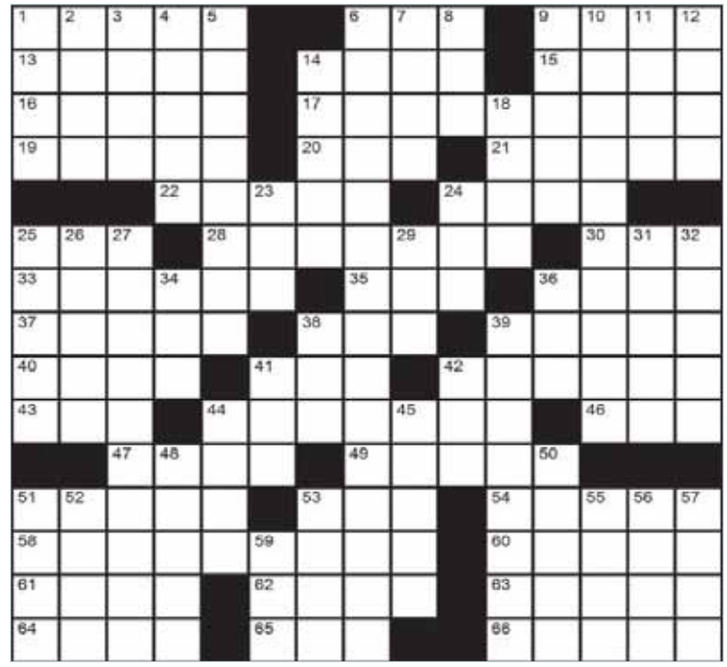
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
No matter how eager you may be to get started on a new project you need to take time out and get your head around all the changes that are taking place in your world.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You'll be asked to do a favour today for someone you don't like but if you are smart you will do it with a smile. You could make yourself a useful ally.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Anyone who thinks they can threaten you will discover how tough a cookie you can be over the next day. Don't worry about making enemies. It means you're being taken seriously.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
A robust set of influences will make you quite vocal over the next 48 hours and that's good. Speak up, loudly.

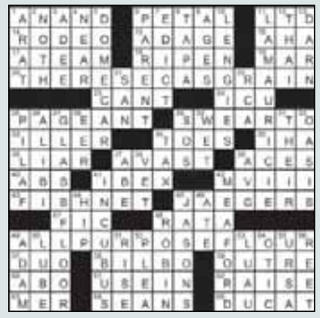
Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



Across
1. Edmonton-born comedian, Tommy __
6. Glamorous getaway
9. Stevie Wonder's "_ __ Made to Love Her"
13. Particular pink
14. Frosts
15. 'The Big Easy'
16. Ancient Greek colony
17. Feist song
19. "_ __." (Poker player's 'no more for me')
20. Keyboard key
21. Portends
22. Inundate
24. Bryan Ferry band, __ Music
25. Yore
28. Rapture
30. Mastiff's mitt
33. Legally accountable
35. Final [abbr.]
36. Singer/songwriter Ms. Kelly
37. Allegiant
38. "General Hospital" sets, briefly
39. Drive-thru extras
40. Worldwide [abbr.]
41. "Sheila" by Tommy __
42. Movie star Ms. Woodward
43. Listener
44. Coagulate
46. Bit
47. "__ Chef America"
49. Similar
51. Narcotized
53. Branch
54. Carnivals
58. One of the Canadian Rockies mountains on the $10 bill
60. Grain fungus
61. Legal 'deal'
62. "Believe" singer
63. Swiped
64. PM Harper, for one
65. Gr. Neil Young joined
66. Pitched

Down
1. Caesar's 202
2. Clopper-on-cobblestone
3. Of little __ __ use (Not eggsactly helpful)
4. Hammer's hammerees
5. Malcolm __, Canadian writer for The New Yorker
6. Winnipeg: Assiniboine Park artsy attraction, Leo Mol __ __
7. Bug
8. Wynonna's sis
9. Desk item for new stuff
10. Writers at __ __ (Annual gathering of scribes/musicians in Newfoundland)
11. Succulent plant
12. __ Club (Walmart-owned American warehouse store)
14. Islamic leaders
18. Hugh Grant movie, "About _ __" (2002)
23. Champion
24. Alphabetic trio
25. 1960s hit songwriter Ms. Greenwich
26. Canadian guitarist Ms. Boyd
27. "...one way ticket, yeah..." goes this Beatles tune: 2 wds.
29. CFL's Montreal players
31. Sphere
32. __ up (Became enlightened)
34. __ Harbour, Florida
36. Sing-y syllable
38. 'Bass' suffix
39. Current music event in Saskatoon
41. Harry's pal at Hogwarts
42. "__ guru deva om / Nothing's gonna change my world..." - The Beatles, "Across the Universe"
44. Musical finale
45. Mr. Fudd
48. Track: __ race
50. "Fantasy" by __, Wind & Fire
51. Store's 'Produce', e.g.
52. A capital in Europe
53. Wows! equivalents
55. Alexander Borodin opera, Prince __
56. Movie part
57. Hearty meal
59. _ _ _-1701 (U.S.S. Enterprise marking)

Yesterday's Crossword



Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

				3		2	4	
2		8	1					
3					9		5	
		6		8			9	
8			9		2			1
	3			4		8		
	7		8					3
					4	6		2
	1	5		7				

Yesterday's Sudoku

5	3	7	4	8	2	1	6	9
8	4	2	1	6	9	3	5	7
6	9	1	7	3	5	8	2	4
3	7	9	2	4	8	5	1	6
2	6	5	3	7	1	9	4	8
4	1	8	5	9	6	7	3	2
9	8	3	6	5	4	2	7	1
7	2	4	8	1	3	6	9	5
1	5	6	9	2	7	4	8	3

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Sunday August 17th 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

The fun continues! Catch the sandbox before it moves to the next tour location.

Follow the fun! indigo.ca/sandsalive

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[1]Offer valid in-store during tour events with purchase of Sands Alive! product while quantities last.